

THE CRITIC,

A JOURNAL FOR READERS, AUTHORS, AND PUBLISHERS.

No. 146.

[SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1847.]

VOL. VI.

THE CRITIC may also be had in Monthly Parts, in a stout Wrapper, price 9d. or 11d.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS.

HISTORY—	
Sir N. H. Nicolai's History of the Royal Navy	242
SCIENCE—	
Library of Illustrated Standard Scientific Works	243
Wilson on Ringworm	243
VOYAGES AND TRAVELS—	
Sylvanus's Rambles in Sweden, &c.	243
FICTION—	
Mark's Reef	245
EDUCATION—	
National Spelling-Book	246
PERIODICALS, &c.—	
The Gentleman's Magazine	246
RELIGION—	
Martineau's Endeavours after a Christian Life	248
MISCELLANEOUS—	
Wisdom of the Age	249
JOURNAL OF AMERICAN LITERATURE—	
Edwards's Voyage up the Amazon	249
DECORATIVE ART—	
A Decorative Art-Union	251
ART—	
Talk of the Studios	252
MUSIC—	
Musical Chit-Chat	252
New Publications	252
DRAMA AND PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS—	
Princess's Theatre	252
Drury Lane	252
NECROLOGY—	
R. B. Peake	252
Colonel Hamner Warrington	253
M. Alexander Brogniart	253
JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, &c.	
The Cholera	253
JOURNAL OF MENTAL PHILOSOPHY—	
Painless Operations	253
HAIR-AT-LAW, NAYS OF KIN, &c.	253
LITERARY INTELLIGENCE—	
Gossip of the Literary World	254
List of New Books	254
ADVERTISEMENTS.	

Businesses for Sale.

A LIBRARY and General STATIONERY BUSINESS to be DISPOSED OF, on reasonable Terms, in an agreeable city, about sixty miles from London, on a Railway line. This is an excellent opportunity to any one commanding 500*l.*, as it is now returning a comfortable income, and capable of great improvement. Apply by letter to Charles Groves, agent and valuer to stationers, &c. 1 Little Trinity-lane, Doctors'-commons.

Sales by Auction.

THE Valuable and Well-known Collection of PAINTINGS, chiefly by Old Masters; also the MODERN DRAWINGS and ENGRAVINGS, formerly the property of the late Prussian Minister of State and Postmaster-General, Von Nagler, will be SOLD BY AUCTION in BERLIN, on the 18th of OCTOBER and following days, by order of the present Proprietor. On view in Berlin several days previously to the Sale. For Catalogues apply to Messrs. ACKERMANN and Co. 96, Strand.

Education.

TO SCHOOL ASSISTANTS.—There will be a VACANCY in a large commercial school in January next for an ASSISTANT MASTER, who must be a first-rate penman, and competent to teach English in all its branches. A decided preference would be given to a person trained at either of the National Society's Training Schools. No one need apply who is not a communicant member of the Church of England. Address: "E. L." Decastro's post-office, Piccadilly.

A BENEFICENT CLERGYMAN, M.A. of Oxford, who has had considerable experience in tuition, has a portion of his time disengaged, which he wishes to devote to the INSTRUCTION OF YOUNG GENTLEMEN in the Classics, French, and General Literature, either at his residence or at their own homes. He has been very successful in preparing candidates for holy orders, and gentlemen for matriculation at the Universities. Address, pre-paid, "Rev. G. L." Clerical Library, Little Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields.

Literary.

TO BOOK COLLECTORS.—HENRY SLATER'S CATALOGUE of valuable BOOKS (Part IV. October, 1847), in Theological, Classical, and Miscellaneous Literature, may be had gratis on application at 2 and 3, High-street, Oxford, or forwarded by post on enclosing two stamps with the address.

SINGING CLASSES—APOLLONICON ROOMS.—Director—Mr. JOHN HULLAH.

Class No. 70, for Ladies, will commence on Monday Evening, October 18, at half-past 6 o'clock.
Class No. 71, for Ladies, will commence on Monday Evening, October 25, at a quarter before 8 o'clock.
Class No. 72, for Gentlemen, will commence on Tuesday Evening, October 19, at 6 o'clock.
Class No. 73, for Gentlemen, will commence on Friday Evening, October 22, at a quarter past 7 o'clock.
Class No. 74, for Gentlemen, will commence on Tuesday Evening, October 26, at half-past 8 o'clock.
Terms—12*s.* for a Course of Sixty Lessons, or two payments of 7*s.* 6*d.* each. Tickets, and full Particulars, may be had at the Apollonicon Rooms, 101, St. Martin's-lane.

ADVERTISEMENTS for the COUNTY COURTS LAW LIST should be sent by the 2nd of November at latest.

As this work will be an indispensable Hand-book in every office, and must be constantly consulted by the Officers, Practitioners, and Suitors in the County Courts, as containing all the Parishes in all the Districts, with their Distances from the Court Towns, it will be a better medium for Advertisements than any Law List, Almanac, &c. Price, the page, 2*s.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; half-a-page, 1*s.* 11*s.* 6*d.*; five lines and under, 7*s.*; for every additional line, 1*s.*
LAW TIMES Office, 29, Essex-street, Strand.

New Publications.

Now ready.
MR. CRIVELLI'S WORK on the ART of SINGING. With all the Original Exercises, &c.; and an Edition adapted to the Bass Voice. May be had at 71, Upper Norton-street, and of all Music-sellers.

In 8vo. price 12*s.* 6*d.* in cloth; a few copies, royal 8vo. 18*s.*
ORIGINES PATRICIE; or, a Deduction of European Titles of Nobility and Dignified Offices from their Primitive Sources.

By R. T. HAMPSON, Author of "Medii Ævi Kalendarium," &c.
"A most elaborate work, of great value as a national reference, to the aristocracy in particular, and to the man of letters in general."

London: Henry Kent Causton, and all Booksellers.
*A few copies only of the "Kalendarium," in two vols. 8vo. with Fac-simile Illuminations from King Æthelstan's Psalter, &c. remain for sale.

ROSCOE'S BATTLES OF ENGLAND. Illustrated with 23 Engravings, by Gilbert, bound in crimson cloth, 8vo. price 4*s.*

THE BATTLES OF ENGLAND interspersed with Narratives and Anecdotes of Naval and Military Exploits, with the best account of the late War in India, and Life of the Duke of Wellington, &c. &c. London: William Tegg and Co. Pancras-lane, Chapside.

Just published, Parts I. to IV. 4to. price 1*s.* each; India paper, 2*s.*

HOGARTH, the COMPLETE WORKS of: being a Series of Engravings, engraved on Steel by the first Artists; with descriptive Letterpress, and with Anecdotes by the Rev. J. TRUSLER and J. DELAND. A part will be published on the 1st and 15th of each month, and will contain Four Engravings in each.

London: E. T. Brain and Co. 88, Fleet-street; J. Menzies, Edinburgh; D. Chambers, Glasgow; J. McGlashan, Dublin, and of all Booksellers.
Agents wanted for the Country.

Now ready, post 8vo. price 3*s.* 6*d.* cloth.
COLD WATER CURE, and Twenty Years' Medical Experience.

By JOHN EDWARD FELDMAN, M.D.
J. Madden, 8, Leadenhall-street; and of all respectable Booksellers. Also at the HYDROPATHIC ESTABLISHMENT, ALBERT-ROAD, REGENT'S PARK; where Dr. F. may be consulted before 11 in the morning, and between 2 and 5 in the afternoon.—Dr. F. attends patients at their own houses, if within five miles of London.

On the 1st of November,
THE LAW TIMES SHEET ALMANAC for 1848, containing Time Tables in Common Law, Equity, Bankruptcy, and the County Courts, and every other information required for ready reference in the Office, being the most complete work of the kind ever published. Price 1*s.* 6*d.* plain; 2*s.* 6*d.* on pasteboard; 3*s.* 6*d.* in a frame; 4*s.* 6*d.* on rollers, glazed.
N.B. Some copies are stamped, to pass free by post, and will be transmitted to any person inclosing 1*s.* 6*d.* in penny postage stamps.
LAW TIMES Office, 29, Essex-street.

LIBRARY of Illustrated STANDARD SCIENTIFIC WORKS, with Engravings on Wood, executed in a new style. Vols. I. and II. are out, viz.—

MULLER'S PRINCIPLES of PHYSICS and METEOROLOGY, 8vo. with 530 Wood Engravings and two Coloured Plates, price 18*s.*

WEISBACH'S PRINCIPLES of the MECHANICS of MACHINERY and ENGINEERING, Vol. I. with 534 Wood Engravings, 8vo. price 1*l.* 1*s.*

Prospectus Specimens may be had through any Book-seller.

London: H. Baillière, publisher, 219, Regent-street.

Just Published, post 8vo. 7*s.* 6*d.* cloth.

THE ELEMENTS of INDIVIDUALISM.

By WILLIAM MACCALL.

CONTENTS.—1. The Confession of Faith.—2. The Teacher's History.—3. The Teacher's Mission.—4. The Mission of the Teacher's Brethren.—5. The Unity and Multifariousness of the Universe.—6. The Unity and Multifariousness of Man.—7. The Unity and Multifariousness of the Individual.—8. The Unity and Multifariousness of Social Being and Action.—9. The Identity of the Human and the Divine in the Individual.—10. The Nature of Religion.—11. The Relation between the Individual and Religion.—12. The Nature of Morality.—13. The Nature of Tolerance.—14. The Perpetuity of G. V's Revelations.—15. Sacred Books and the Consciousness of the Individual.—16. The Chief Characteristic of the Prophet.—17. The Nature of a Church.—18. The Nature of a Government.—19. Education.—20. The Relation of the Past, the Present, and the Future.—21. The Development of Principles in Human Nature.—22. The Development of Faculties in the Individual.—23. Civilisation and Nationality.—24. Art and Education.—25. The Positive Teaching of the Truth.—26. The True Estimate of Religious and Political Institutions.—27. The Adaptation of Theological Faith to Individual Requirement.—28. The Infinite in Man.—29. The Spirit of Love, and the Spirit of Sacrifice.—30. The Harmony of Goodness, Beauty, and Truth.—31. The Relation of Sects and Parties to Truth and Progress.—32. The Grand Obstacle to Individualism.—33. The Origin and Growth of Greedy Truths.—34. The Power of Enthusiasm.—35. The Final, Fervent, Familiar Word.

By the same Author:—

THE AGENTS of CIVILISATION: A Series of Lectures. 3*s.* 6*d.* cloth.

THE EDUCATION of TASTE: A Series of Lectures. 2*s.* 6*d.*

THE INDIVIDUALITY of the INDIVIDUAL: A Lecture. 6*d.*

JOHN CHAPMAN, 142, Strand.

By the same Author:—

A SPELLING and READING BOOK,

upon New Principles. By the Rev. J. F. DENHAM, M.A. F.R.S. Rector of St. Mary-le-Strand, Lecturer of St. Bride's, Fleet-street. Third Edition. Part I. enlarged by the application of the Principles to every Class of Words in the Language, 1*s.* 6*d.* bound.

"The odium of spelling is removed by Mr. Denham's process."—*Atlas*.

"A rational view of the nature and modes of elemental education."—*Morning Herald*.

"Highly calculated to facilitate the acquisition of learning to spell and read. It will also be found peculiarly useful to foreigners."—*The Record*.

Simplin, Marshall, and Co. Stationers' Hall-court; Johnstone, 26, Paternoster-row, and Princes-street, Edinburgh; C. H. Law, 131, Fleet-street.

Just published (the 30th thousand) illustrated with numerous anatomical engravings, and in a sealed envelope, price 2*s.* and sent free for 2*s.* 6*d.* in postage stamps.

A MEDICAL TREATISE, entitled "MANHOOD," addressed to those suffering from Nervous Debility or Mental Irritation; with observations on Marriage and the treatment of those diseases resulting from excess, climate, or too close application to study, with explanatory cases, &c.
By J. L. CURTIS and CO. Consulting Surgeons, 7, Frith-street, Soho-square, London.

To be had of the Authors, at their residence; also, Strange, 21, Paternoster-row; Hanway, 63, Grafton-street; Mann, 29, Cornhill, London; Guest, Birmingham; T. Sowler, 4, St. Ann's-square, Manchester; G. Phillip, South Castle-street, Liverpool; W. and H. Robinson, Booksellers, Edinburgh; Campbell, 136, Argyle-street, Glasgow; and all Booksellers.

REVIEWS OF THE WORK.

"We feel no hesitation in saying that there is no member of society by whom the book will not be found useful, whether such person hold the relation of a parent, a preceptor, or a clergyman."—*Sun*.

"A perusal of this work will easily distinguish its talented authors from the host of medical writers and medicine vendors whose pretensions to cure all diseases are daily so indecently thrust before the public. Its originality is apparent, and its perusal breathes consolation and hope to the mind of the patient."—*Naval and Military Gazette*.

Hours of consultation from 10 till 2. Letters must contain the usual fee of 1*l.*

"In the best weekly reviews the public do not expect elaborate criticism—the object of the reviewer is novelty, arrangement, amusement—he wishes to give faithful accounts (which he generally does by extracts) of new publications; and doubtless this, after all, is the proper and exact duty of weekly reviews. Elaborate criticism is seldom light reading; and though the public might once a quarter, they certainly would not once a week permit themselves to be seriously instructed. Yet altogether the reviews in the best weekly publications are considerably fairer and truer than those in the quarterlies; and in nine times out of ten produce a greater influence on the sale of the book."—*BELVER.*

JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LITERATURE.

HISTORY.

A History of the Royal Navy from the Earliest Times to the Wars of the French Revolution.
By Sir NICHOLAS H. NICOLAS. Vol. II. London, 1847.

This volume resumes the History of the English Navy at the reign of EDWARD III. and brings it down to that of HENRY V. The reign of the third EDWARD was a period of great advancement in that as in other arts of civilisation, and the navy distinguished itself by its exploits. It was, indeed, a period of great naval as well as military glory. During the reign of his feeble successor, the naval power of England endured a lamentable decline. Under the sway of the fourth HENRY, it appears to have remained at a low ebb, but the descent, at least, was stayed. HENRY V. however, felt the most lively interest in the navy. "He not only commanded large ships to be built, but personally inspected their progress; and though he was not their founder, he gave more powerful vessels to the royal navy than it ever before possessed, with the determination to acquire the dominion of the sea."

The very ample details collected by the industry of the historian have produced a book of uncommon interest and variety. It is not merely the navy whose condition we trace, but we learn also by the events narrated the state of the country, the manners of the people, and some of the most characteristic features of society as moulding and moulded by institutions. But when we come to look closely into many things which appear strange and harsh to us, we find that they were necessary evils under the circumstances, and generally that the common sense of the English adapted the means to the end with a precision whose sagacity is proved by the successful results. Even from the complaints of the people we learn the sort of government under which they lived, and which mingled so strangely freedom with despotism. Such, for instance, is the complaint of the Commons to EDWARD III.:—"At this time (1371) the English navy, which only a few years before had swept the narrow seas and, defeated both the French and the Spaniards, was in so deplorable a condition that the Commons made the circumstance part of their complaints to the king. They represented that the cities, ports, and boroughs, and the whole navy of the realm, had for a long time suffered great damage unknown to the king and his council, to the annihilation of the said places and navy, and danger of the realm in case of need; that they had formerly enjoyed certain franchises and usages, by which they were enabled to maintain their houses, their navy, and themselves, and support the good estate and great honour and safety of their lord and all his people, to the great fear of all foreign countries, by the power of the merchants and navy of the realm; but that now, since their franchises had been seized, one-third part of the towns, boroughs, and ports, was almost ruined and uninhabited, the walls broken down, and the shipping nearly ruined, so that the merchants were reduced to poverty and could scarcely live. They therefore prayed that their ancient privileges and franchises might be restored, so that when occasion required they could do good service to the king, and discomfit his enemies. The Commons then stated, that the principal causes of the navy being so nearly destroyed, were—first, that arrests of shipping were often made long before vessels were wanted, during which interval the owners were at the expense of keeping the ships and crews without making any profit, by which many of them became so impoverished as to be obliged to quit their business, and their ships were ruined. Secondly, that the merchants who sup-

ported the navy had been so impeded in their voyages and affairs by divers ordinances, that they had no employment for ships; that great part of the mariners had consequently abandoned their profession, and gained their livelihood in some other way; and that their ships were hauled up on the shore to rot. Thirdly, that as soon as the masters of the king's ships were ordered on any voyage, they impressed the masters and ablest part of the men of other ships; and those vessels being left without persons to manage them, many of them perished, and their owners were ruined. The king promised that these evils should be remedied; and the Commons were desired to specify the grievances arising from the loss of their franchises, and were assured of a proper answer."

The power of impressment was freely and regularly resorted to. Thus we find in the reign of EDWARD III. that "Seamen, as well as soldiers, and every article necessary for the king's service, continued to be obtained by impressment, authority for which was incidental to the office of admiral. It was, however, often given to other officers, and occasionally, by a special instrument, to the masters of particular vessels;—as in October, 1335, to the master of the cog *Edward*; in 1336, to the master of the *Rode Cogge*; and in 1337, to the master of a barge. It is not surprising that this power was often abused. A lawyer presented a petition to the king in 1337, complaining that, although he had neither lands nor tenements, and had never borne arms in peace or war, Sir JOHN ROSS, the king's admiral, had, nevertheless, ordered him to equip himself as a man-at-arms, and to be at Orwell, on pain of imprisonment as a rebel, which would, he said, ruin him, and be very injurious to his clients. Having proved that he was an attorney, Sir JOHN ROSS was directed not to enforce the summons."

Ships were pressed also, and indeed the whole commerce of the country must have been brought to a stand, the moment it was deemed desirable to proclaim war. For instance, we find on the occasion of EDWARD's assuming the title and arms of King of France, that "Parliament, which had been summoned to meet in the octaves of St. Hilary, was adjourned until the Monday following, in consequence of the absence of the Duke of Cornwall, guardian of England, on which day the masters and mariners of ships who had been ordered to attend were directed to appear. Among the causes for assembling Parliament, an especial motive was the necessity of providing for the safety of the sea; and, besides granting a tenth as a general aid, various measures were adopted relating to the navy. The sailors of the Cinque-Ports undertook to have twenty-one of their own ships, and nine ships belonging to the river Thames, ready by mid-lent (the 26th of March), and the council promised to pay half the cost,—not, however, as 'wages,' but from 'special grace.' The sailors of the western ports engaged to furnish seventy ships of one hundred tons and upwards each, and, as far as they could, at their own expense, the council finding the remainder of the money. It was determined by Parliament that all the ships of that tonnage belonging to Portsmouth and the westward, should be at that port by mid-lent, and that the Earl of Arundel should be made their admiral; and that the vessels belonging to the Cinque-Ports should assemble at Winchelsea, having the Earl of Huntingdon for their admiral. It was further determined that commands should be sent to admirals to arrest all other ships, and to prevent their putting to sea on account of the French; and that all such small ships were to be brought into havens where they might be best secured from the enemy. Proclamations were ordered to be made throughout England, that all who had obtained charters of pardon should proceed towards the sea, to be ready to go in the king's service, and at his wages, on pain of forfeiting those charters, and of being held responsible for the crimes which had been forgiven, if they did not do so. Measures were also adopted for the protection of Southampton, which was to be garrisoned by Sir RICHARD TALBOT with fifty men-at-arms, and one hundred archers; and two pinnares, from Milbrook, were placed at his disposal. RICHARD Earl of Arundel's commission as admi-

ral of the western fleet, was issued on the 20th of February."

Among the most curious relics of this period are the public accounts, from which Sir N. H. NICOLAS has largely extracted. They throw much light on the condition of the navy at this period of our history. He says:—"Much new and curious information has been obtained from the naval accounts of this period respecting the construction, rigging, masts, sails, and stores of ships; and the nautical reader will perceive with some surprise that precisely the same technical terms often occur as are now used; though there are many expressions which have become obsolete, and not a few of which the meaning has not been discovered. In only two instances does it appear that any ship had more than one mast; and though they had usually a bowsprit, it was so small a spar that vessels had often two or more spare ones. The galley *La Philippe*, probably the *Philippe*, and named after the Queen, had only one mast, which cost 10*l*.; and one yard, which cost 3*l*. One 'lof' and one bowsprit, cost 2*l*. 3*s*. 4*d*. Her cordage included shrouds, 'hevedropes,' 'backstays,' 'stays,' 'uptyes,' 'running-tyes,' 'crane-line,' 'hawesers,' 'cables,' 'winding-ropes,' 'swing-ropes,' 'seasings,' 'truss-ropes,' 'tow-rope,' 'veering-ropes,' 'boy-ropes,' 'sheets,' 'yard-ropes,' 'bow-lines,' and a 'sounding-line.' She had one large anchor weighing 1,100 pounds of Spanish iron, and five smaller anchors; which cost altogether 23*l*. 10*s*. 3*d*. Her sail contained 640 ells, which was dyed red. To this sail 'wynewews' were attached, which were dyed black, and contained 220 ells of cloth; and the sail had a 'leechrope,' a 'bolt-rope,' eight 'reef-ropes,' and 'ribondes.' Sixty ells of canvas were purchased to double the sail, which was made under the superintendence of the master and constable of the galley; and it was sewn by twenty-four women. She had twenty-four 'skalters,' eighty oars, and two 'rafters,' and an entire covering of cloth, called a 'pannel,' in which were 576 ells, and was dyed red. Two 'leopards' (lions of England) adorned the galley, being placed on the 'stamps,'—probably on two posts near the stern. Instead of a pump, water was ejected from the galley by a 'winding-balies,' into which the water was put by two 'spoujours.' The vessel was 'purified' or cleansed by twenty-four tunnels, or 'tynels.' Her sides were greased, and her bottom paid with a mixture of pitch, tar, oil, and rosin. A piece of timber for her 'rother,' or rudder, cost 2*s*.; and two hundred pounds of Spanish iron was bought 'to make two chains for her rudder,' which prove that she had only one rudder, and that it must have been fixed to her stern. She was caulked with 'mosso,' possibly moss and hair. The artificers employed in building this galley were,—her master-carpenter, who was paid 6*d*. a day; other carpenters, who received 5*d*.; clinkerers, at 4*d*.; holderers, at 3*d*.; and servants or attendants on those workmen, at 2*d*. a day."

Among other curiosities we have a despatch from EDWARD III. to the Duke of CORNWALL, announcing the victory of Sluys. It is the oldest despatch in our annals. Thus it runs—"Most dear Son,—We, considering well that you are desirous to hear good news of us, and how it has fared with us since our leaving England, have you to know, that the Thursday after our departure from the port of Orwell, we sailed all the day and the night following, and on Friday, about the hour of 'nounge,' we came on the coast of Flanders, off Blankenberg, where we had sight of the fleet of our enemies, which were all gathered together in the port of Swyne; and as the tide did not then suit to meet them, we remained there all that night. The Saturday, the day of St. John, soon after the hour of 'nounge,' with the tide, we, in the name of God, and in the confidence of our right quarrel, entered into the said port upon our enemies, who had placed their ships in very strong array, and which made a very noble defence all that day and the night after; but God, by his power and miracle, granted us the victory over our said enemies, for which we thank him as devoutly as we can. And we have you to know, that the number of ships, galleys, and great barges of our enemies amounted to one hundred

and ninety, which were all taken, except twenty-four in all, which fled, and some of them were since taken at sea; and the number of men-at-arms and other armed people amounted to thirty-five thousand, of which number, by estimation, five thousand escaped, and the remainder, as we are given to understand by some persons who are taken alive, lie dead in many places on the coast of Flanders. On the other hand, all our ships, that is to say, the *Christopher* and the others which were lost at Middleburgh, are now retaken, and there are taken in this fleet three or four as large as the *Christopher*. The Flemings were willing to have come to us at the battle, from the commencement to the end. Thus God our Lord has shown abundant grace, for which we and all our friends are ever bound to render grace and thanks to Him. Our intention is to remain quiet in the river until we have made certain arrangements with our allies and other our friends of Flanders as to what should be done. Most dear son, may God be keeper of you! Given under our secret seal, in our ship-cog *Thomas*, Wednesday, the eve of St. Peter and St. Paul."

EDWARD commemorated this victory after a fashion peculiarly his own. We are informed that, "In January 1344, three gold coins were struck, one marked with two leopards, another with one leopard, and a third with a helmet; but, on the 9th of July in the same year, this money was superseded by a new coinage of 'nobles,' called 'gold nobles,' 'maillie nobles,' and 'ferlyng nobles.' The obverse of the gold noble bore the king's effigy crowned, standing in a large ship, holding in one hand a sword, and in the other a shield, with the arms of France and England, and having on the reverse this legend from the Gospel of St. Luke—

"Jesus autem transiens per medium eorum ibat."

"But Jesus, passing through the midst of them, went his way."

Many conjectures have been hazarded on the application of this verse; but the fact seems to have been entirely overlooked that it referred not to the gold, but to the king in his ship at the battle of Sluys; and, profane as was the comparison, the legend was singularly appropriate. The object of the French fleet was to prevent EDWARD from landing in Flanders; but he literally 'passed through the midst of them,' and 'went his way,' as our Saviour passed through the multitude which had assembled on the brow of the hill 'to cast him down headlong.'"

Among the historic doubts which have amused antiquarians is the precise period of the introduction of gunpowder, and the use of cannon. Sir H. NICOLAS throws some light upon this subject. "The notices of cannon and gunpowder which have been recently discovered are of great interest, as the information which they afford is equally original, accurate, and important. It is manifest from these records that cannon formed part of the armament of many ships as early, and probably a few years before, 1338; that about 1372, guns and gunpowder were commonly used; that some guns were made of iron, some of brass, and others of copper; that there was a kind of hand-gun as well as large cannon; and that gunpowder was formed of the same elements, and made in nearly the same manner as at present. Among the stores of the hulk *Christopher of the Tower*, in June 1338, were three iron cannons with five chambers, a hand-gun, some article of iron, of which the name is obliterated, for the cannon, and three old stone bags—no doubt bags to hold shot. The barge called the *Mary of the Tower* had an iron cannon with two chambers, and another of brass with one chamber; and a ship called a 'carak' had one cannon. Two iron cannons, 'without stuff,' are also mentioned; and in the king's private wardrobe were two great guns of copper. Guns had in some instances handles; for among the king's expenses between 1372 and 1374, were payments for 'helvyng' eight guns. There are also numerous entries in the naval accounts for those years relating to gunpowder and shot for guns, of which the following are the most material:—A small barrel of gunpowder, a quarter full; one hundred and eighty-four pounds of powder for guns, made from one hundred and thirty-

five pounds of saltpetre and forty-nine pounds of live sulphur; and also two hundred and forty-two pounds of pure live sulphur. Payments occur to workmen for making powder and pellets of lead for guns at the Tower of London. There were purchased coal and five hundred of 'talwode' for casting the lead and drying the powder; four trays of wood, and brazen pots and dishes, for drying the powder over the fire and by the sun; also leather bags to hold the same powder; two brass mortars, three iron pestles; twelve iron spoons to make leaden bullets; ten moulds of laton, to make the same; one pair of scales to weigh the powder; thirty small barrels, with hasps and staples, to hold the bullets; thirty small hanging locks for the said thirty barrels; two hundred and twenty pounds of saltpetre; two 'sarces'; eighteen bellows; earthen pots and pans to dry the powder by the fire and sun; and willows for making charcoal."

The reader will look with interest for the continuation of this acceptable contribution to our National History.

SCIENCE.

Library of Illustrated Standard Scientific Works. Vol. II. *Weisbach's Principles of the Mechanics of Machinery and Engineering.* Vol. I. London, 1847. Baillière.

THIS is a translation of the valuable work of Professor WEISBACH, who has won for himself a wide reputation in Germany for his extraordinary tact in the arrangement and clearness in the enunciation of the principles and practice of the science of "the Mechanics of Machinery and Engineering." Simplicity is the author's aim, and he endeavours with this view to give the demonstration of all problems important in their practical application, by the lower mathematics only, thus avoiding the use of the differential and integral calculus, understood by comparatively few, and the employment of which, therefore, excludes the works that contain them from the studies of thousands, to whom the results are of great practical value, and who are yet perfectly competent to the mastery of the lower mathematics. Some authors, indeed, are content to give the results without proof, and thus to evade the difficulty; but Professor WEISBACH does not approve of this, because it tends to superficial knowledge, and may be a serious impediment to those who have to make a practical application of their science. All that is needful for the mastery of this volume is, therefore, a general acquaintance with some doctrines of natural philosophy, and an intimate knowledge of pure elementary mathematics.

To those thus prepared for its perusal, it will be found an invaluable guide to the labyrinths of mechanics and engineering, both theoretical and practical. But it must not be mistaken for a work on the construction of machines. It is an introduction to that, bearing to it the same relation as does descriptive geometry to the drawing of machines. Hence, beginning with the pure mathematical science of motion, it passes to the mechanics in the physical science of motion in general, the statics of rigid bodies, the dynamics of the same, and the statics and dynamics of fluid bodies. All is profusely illustrated with engravings, and a copious index affords ready access to every subject handled. It is one of the most valuable additions which have been made to the Scientific Library of Great Britain since THE CRITIC commenced its record of the progress of publication. No mechanic or engineer should omit to procure and to master it.

On Ringworm: its Causes, Pathology, and Treatment. By ERASMUS WILSON, F.R.S. London, 1847. Churchill.

RINGWORM is a disease of the scalp which causes the hair to become brittle and break off at the surface. Its name is derived from its circular form; but the popular notion, that it is produced by a worm, is entirely without foundation in fact. After a long and minute examination of it, Dr. WILSON has come to the conclusion that, if not wholly non-contagious, it is at least much less communicable than is at present believed. In this he states the results of his own experience. In the St. Pancras Infirmary he had seen only six cases of ringworm for many years, and in no instance did it appear to be the result of contagion, or to have communicated itself to others. It is caused by bad diet, imperfect ventilation, or want of exercise. Its effects upon the general health are very serious, for it retards the natural growth of the mind and body. The cure is the removal of the cause, and the strengthening of the constitution by plentiful and wholesome diet.

Dr. WILSON has entered into a very minute examination of the physiology and pathology of this terrible disease, and he writes in language intelligible to the unlearned, so that his little volume may be profitably consulted by families afflicted, as well as by the faculty.

VOYAGES AND TRAVELS.

Rambles in Sweden and Gottland; with Etchings by the Wayside. By SYLVANUS, Author of "Pedestrian and other Reminiscences, at Home and Abroad," &c. London, 1847.

SYLVANUS saw a great deal of Sweden, for he was not a mere tourist moving through the country as fast as horses could carry him, seeing nothing but high roads, rivers, and lakes, and giving half a day to a town, and then noting his opinions of places and people with the confidence of ignorance. He spent a summer there; took lodgings, mingled with the inhabitants, rambled into the surrounding country, paid leisurely visits to the remarkable places, sought the picturesque, explored the wild, strolled about the towns, and, with open eyes and ears, observed not the aspect alone, but the spirit of men and things, which he has set down in a broad and effective, but somewhat coarse manner, peculiarly his own. If SYLVANUS were not naturally rather narrow-minded, a very weak reasoner, and, like all such men, very full of prejudices, he would be as instructive a tourist as he is undoubtedly amusing. But his shallow judgment mars his keen observation, and produces a sort of contempt for the writer who can venture such crudities and fallacies with the conviction that they are profound wisdom.

He went to Hamburg in May 1846. Having seen all that was most interesting in that city, rising so magnificently from its ashes, he proceeded to Copenhagen, and thence to Stockholm. For twelve months he inspected Sweden, and the results of his visit are before us.

With Sweden he is delighted—that is to say, with the country; but he is not so pleased with the people. He gives them, indeed, a very bad character. According to him, they are rapacious hypocrites, estimating everybody by the measure of what they expect to obtain from him; money-getting is an absolute passion with them; and never were heard such backbiters and scandal-mongers. Thus he says—

I cannot get at a Swede's heart, however mellow it may be, nor can his brother or most intimate companion; and when he fancies he is amusing me by tales of disparagement of all alike, the moment

their backs are turned, a trait as universal as it is detestable, he makes a mistake, of which I now publicly tell him, one greater than enters into his philosophy to conceive. Every man and woman alike, in this country, have something to say against the reputation of their respective acquaintance, added to a jealous hatred of a successful competitor in any walk of life, too sad to relate—sadder still to witness. A Swedish gentleman told me his countrymen would willingly assist him in any matter, if they could without any great outlay or trouble; but that the instant he began to thrive, they would tumble his house and character about his ears, if they could possibly accomplish it. Jealousy in trade, he added, was carried on to a savage extent; and prevailed amongst bouquets of bows and squeakings of the hand, as if it was as far distant as the sincerity they falsely pretend to guarantee.

They are intensely selfish too.

The *amor pecunie* is another thorough Swedish plant, and throws into shade nearly every other flower of the mind: it is watered morning and evening, and attended with such assiduous care, that it has struck its roots into many a Swede's inmost soul so deeply as to defy every attempt to eradicate it, were such ever made. They are anything but misers; nevertheless they desire the money—yes, as the hart panteth for the water-brook—that they may spend it on themselves. If you enter the country, you are measured as to your capacity for being turned to account, as carefully as if you were formed of gold-dust rather than of human ashes: if there is the most remote chance of it, look for being cherished accordingly; if not, "go thy way, thou unprofitable acquaintance," is the mental ejaculation, be assured. The Swedes say this of each other, and common politeness demands my full acquiescence, grievous as it is to relate it. They look not for sincerity amongst themselves; nor are they ever agreeably surprised by its discovery.

With all this, there is the external shew of sympathy,—not mere *politesse*, but an affectation of extreme regard and interest in your welfare.

For your personal grievances or any petty disaster, if you have a mind to enter upon such topics, the Swedes have a prompt and abundant display of sympathy. To so great an extent, indeed, do they carry it, that they appear to suffer more keenly than the party concerned. If you tell an old woman that you have the tooth or ear ache, she will instantly elongate her face, stare in agony, and begin to "clock" and rock herself to and fro till you leave the house, when, it is to be hoped, she recovers. This coin is current throughout Sweden with most classes, and would be an ample revenue to the numerous retailers of the ills of life. A man with tic doloureux or a "returned bill" to descant on, can at any time secure an audience which cannot fail to relieve him,—if commiseration, served with intense action and dolorous facings, have any charm.

He describes the state of morals there to be at a very low ebb, especially at Stockholm, as witness his remarks on a masquerade:—

The women, the very nicest creatures in the universe, if well treated and allowed "fair play," which they are not, were all frightfully masked, and ranged formally by themselves on seats round the room, where they waited the challenge to polk and punch on the part of the "Titmice." These heroes stalked round and round the market—for it struck me as being nothing more nor less—"taking stock," and making their selection of partners, induced equally with an air of debauched dejection and boisterous pomposity. Animal was palpably the prevailing attribute in the performers, and Silenus, turned "free trader," the genius of the *salle*. Nought more thoroughly matter-of-fact, or imbued with the spirit of cash and currency can be imagined in the philosophy of a New Orleans slave or pawnbroker, than the arrangements entered into at Stockholm by the parties I have described. Cupid himself

wears a cocked hat, and strings his bow with a stay-lace; having stipulated cautiously for rations and pocket-money before he breaks ground or hearts! There are no impromptu, or unguarded likes or dislikes in Scandinavian dovetailing; nothing like spontaneous combustion or involuntary mistakes are countenanced—all is precluded by overtures for "daily bread," and ink-shed, when the amiable parties "join giblets," without a comment being made by their relatives or neighbours. Were they to "assume" a shade of the virtue they have not, for the sake of appearances, they might somewhat move the capital from the just animadversions of the stranger; for the glaring deformity in morals is too notorious and shame-faced to admit of doubting or palliation on the part of the blindest of its visitors. The fruit of this wholesale, unblushing licentiousness is thrown into the lap of government, who considerably keeps open house, or at all events sanctions conservatories for its reception, at a hundred *banco*, or 8*l.* per cradle-load! One-third of the population of Stockholm is positively illegitimate, as statistically proved, to the glory of Satan and "free-trade." Without going into "debatable land," it is safe to say, that he is a clever Stockholmer indeed who has the most remote guess as to his paternity. Vice, in this capital, appears to assume a sobriety of garb, or rather a mantle of solemn lasciviousness, and to put in a claim to respectability, far more revolting to the contemplator than a whole archipelago of cyprians.

Nevertheless SYLVANUS exhorts travellers to prefer Sweden to the Rhine. The country abounds in attractions of scenery. But he does not sufficiently estimate the annoyances which, however trifling to a hardened traveller like himself, could be ill endured by the five-week tourist, who inquires for the best hotel, and criticises the *table d'hôte*. The inns are wretched, even at the capital.

In Stockholm they are all equally unfavourable at first sight, and infinitely worse than they look in everything relating to bed and board. Nothing can be more wretched than the abominable abode I have managed to get located in; or more extravagantly high, considering the miserable fare and attendance, than the charges of the amiable little Swedish Jew who keeps it. I sleep in a den without a morsel of carpet; in which I am also obliged to eat, there being nothing like a parlour or "coffee-room" in the house, or in any hotel in the place, in fact. I break my elbows nightly in the narrow, "cribbed, confined" thing called a bed; and have fancied myself, in my tossing dozes, as forming the entrance-hall to one of the huge ant-hills that fill the woods of Sweden; for Morpheus either flees away entirely, or otherwise drives me through imaginary realms of eternal wool and stifling fumes in his *buggy*: till Phœbus overtakes us in his phaeton, and kindly gives me an airing in the outer world. Poor as is the public accommodation in Stockholm, I am compelled to recommend my countrymen to stick to "native talent;" for I never encountered the amount of imposition, discourtesy, and stinginess, following a profusion of telescope curtsies and smirking dulcet vows of good treatment, as I endured for many months in a semi-Englishwoman's house in the "Brunkerberg." Once in the web of an agreement, and dire was the change in my monthly computation and dietary: the former assumed a figure as ungracefully embonpoint as the latter became "small by degrees and villainously less."

Nor are the annoyances limited to the hotels. With us such a plague as the insect world produces would suffice to disturb much of the pleasure of the finest scenery. As for instance:—

As the first fierce ray licks up the lingering twilight in your chamber, do the gnats, the largest, loudest, and most savage I ever had to contend with, blow their fiendish horn, and buzz in your dreaming ear, as, hovering like a vampire's brood, they make their swoop to tap your vein and swig your gentle blood; whilst you with many a hearty

slap revenge yourself on the glowing proboscis and tingling ear that call you owner, the winged and hateful pest seeming to turn his horrid buzz into a yell of derision as you make your groggy hits, and vainly try for slumber. Tossing your frantic arms, and grinning through your dreams, "you half-unveil another charm," in the sturdy leg you have thrust like an outtrigger from your bed to cool: on this tempting joint, "all bashfully struggling into light," do the black and humming flies instantly settle; and where they fail to tickle they do not forget to bite, compelling you to haul your limb inboard with a drowsy malediction, and turn again in time for the gnat's renewed attack with the bayonet, whilst the aforesaid flies have a battle royal or an amorous wrestling match within the mazes of your hair, probably winding up their fight or courtship in your very ear! No one can tell the misery of these nights and mornings if they have not lived out of England; and I imagine my experience is comparative ignorance, and therefore bliss, when likened to American luxuries in this respect. It is such bliss, nevertheless, that I would gladly exchange, if I could, for any country in which these winged miscreants are unknown, or less presuming. I have a wasp now on my table as large as a small sparrow-hawk. I never saw such a monster,—he has horns like the Durham ox (a short horn, if I remember right), with a sting as long and sharp as a small rapier. The Swedish gnat is a twin brother to a New Orleans mosquito, if he does not come from a worse family. Seen through a microscope he would frighten a nervous man,—his long dagger-shaped head, scaly body, strong speckled wings, and numerous sinewy legs, make this petty torment into a miniature dragon in his aspect and blood-thirsty nature. I made war upon them in the day-time with great slaughter; they then seem, like other birds of prey or ill-omen, to be overcome by the desire of sleep, and settle on the wall again if you miss your aim, as a jack-snipe will in a bog. I shot them with a pistol! only charged with a cap, and made a good bag on several occasions, though there was a nightly guerrilla force which defied all my assaults and strategy, as easily as Abd-el-Kader does the French, which will give you some notion of the gnat's ability at "hitting and getting away," as old Tom Cribb would say.

Winter would appear, from the description of SYLVANUS, to be the most agreeable season in Sweden. Indeed it has been so pictured by LAING. There is a joyousness in the notice of a winter day that makes the heart dance as we read.

The snow has fallen heavily the last week, and filled the narrow streets of Stockholm to the first "trappa." The Mälar is frozen, and covered with skaters and pedestrians. The sombre plumes of the Swedish fir are weighed down with dazzling wreaths, and appear singularly beautiful. The hedges have disappeared altogether, and are replaced by defences resembling alabaster ramparts. Not a wheel is to be seen; in lieu of which innumerable sledges, with their tinkling bells and merry little nags, give a vivacity to the scene which green leaves and sunshine failed to produce. Some few of these sledges are handsome and well horsed, especially those which have Russian owners; though, in the aggregate, they are short, unsightly vehicles, and appointed in anything but good taste. Sledging, when the roads are evenly covered with well-ploughed snow, is a delightful mode of conveyance. You experience a hearty, gleesome sensation as you spin along through the frosty air, only raised a few inches from the dazzling way, nearly equalling the thrill produced by a ride on the box-seat of the "Tantivy," or nearly-forgotten Brighton "Age," and that was a thrill indeed!

And again he says:—

It is dark at three o'clock in the afternoon, and dusk before two; the day is not fairly broke at nine o'clock A.M. so that we have, in fact, only about five hours of light, in lieu of the eighteen with which we were surfeited in summer. I really prefer this wintry screen to the incessant dazzling attack upon the eye and nerves an excitable man must expe-

rience, when living in a world constantly illuminated, as is the case with Sweden for half the year. I have felt a composure and inclination for study I could not coax to become my guests in sunshine. It is intensely cold; so cold, that your breath freezes as you walk, and settles in gelid eloquence on the mouth from whence it came. No consistency can save a man from the necessity of "eating his own words," as he travels in Sweden; for they return *volens volens* to the portal whence they issued, and if not admitted, hang clamorously about your moustache and whisker with painful tenacity. The effect produced by the intensely frosty air on every living thing exposed to its influence, is extremely curious. Raven locks become venerably white or piebald in an hour's drive; whilst your snorting horse is metamorphosed into a glittering polar Pegasus, with a mane and muzzle waving with brilliants. The moonlight nights are glorious; and quite repay us for the loss of day; the heavens appear of meteoric radiance, and to display a greater proportion of stars as the temperature lowers. To this witching brightness the flickering, mysterious northern lights add their charm and peculiar brilliancy. Beds are all but deserted on these bright occasions, and sledges universally put in requisition for jaunts over the snow and frozen lakes,—the cold being defied or despised by all alike. Our in-door resources are quite of the high-dried, band-box order; consisting, in the main, in ceremonious calls and evening parties, with an occasional ball or two, *pro bono*; when the rooms remind you of India and the manners of Greenland,—the former being oppressively close as well as hot, and the latter, like the weather outside, at their usual freezing point. The display and needless outlay witnessed at most of these reunions of dullness and formality are in sad proof of the extravagance which prevails.

The sketches of society in Sweden are valuable, because it is a country of which we have less accurate knowledge than of any other. Thus he describes a court ball:—

The king was manly, easy, and particularly kind in his manner, and impressed me with the conviction of his being a perfectly amiable well-meaning man. For the rest, Gaiety was in her weeds, and poor Terspichore "out of sorts!" notwithstanding the many, many pretty lasses who were ranged like flower-pots on the shelves of a conservatory. There were more "orders" in the room than were ever issued from Drury Lane or Covent Garden in a season. One hen-pecked, simpering, harmless-looking old gentleman had fourteen on his person, averaging from a dessert-plate to a brass farthing in size. Nothing can be more viciously absurd than the making these honoured and honourable badges so cheap as they are in Sweden. When gained, Venus or Red Tape can only guess. Can any one value fourteen orders lying amongst his hair brushes, when he has lived in a land wherein a ball-cartridge has happily, in his time, never been required? These orders were stitched on the coat, hung round the neck, and pendant from the shoulder of nearly all the big-wigs alike. An old Waterloo man in the room asked me if I could possibly give him a hint what the decorations were intended to commemorate. I confess, I could not surmise the fields open to Swedish inroad, large enough to produce them. The ball in question was a type of Swedish manner, and consequently feeling, in public, and therefore instructive. I saw nothing in the least objectionable or ominous but the proudly submissive, haughty, yet obsequious demeanour and bow on the part of the burgher to his condescending acquaintance for the night: such a bending of the vertebrae and lack of everything like heartiness on the countenance, I certainly never witnessed."

He was present also at a marriage, and he narrates a curious custom:—

The fair betrothed was married at home about six o'clock in the evening, and immediately afterwards was brought to the window, in which a number of lighted candles were placed, where she had to blush (if she could) and shew herself till eleven! an immense crowd being gathered below, having the pri-

vilege, accorded by vile custom, of demanding her to come forward, should she be absent from it longer than suited their notions of propriety! The hero or victim in this benedictine pillory was a clergyman, and equally public property for the night: I merely name this to shew that it is a practice from which the *élite* are not exempt. The lady was very bridally attired, and appeared, as I thought, particularly steady under fire, never shrinking from the admiring volleys she received, but enflaming the street in return with eloquent glances, whilst the newly-riveted parson could scarcely be forced to the front, though repeatedly called for: he evidently had more of the "white feather" about him than his more courageous half, gaily plumed as she was. I confess, as a modest man, I went home guiltless of the sin of coveting a "neighbour's wife," whose tastes gave preference to the reeking glare of a public illumination rather than to the pale, witching beams of the sweet and lonely "honeymoon;" for I cannot but think in this age of freedom the display might have been avoided if really as disagreeable as most of my fair and fowl readers may well imagine it. To the former, with "caps to set," the custom must be anything but favourable, as I can imagine nothing more likely to induce a man to put off the evil day than the heavy disbursement of impudence he would have to make in paying the terrible penalty I have described.

We conclude with an account of an interesting race who form a feature in the capital of Sweden.

The Dalecarlians sojourning at Stockholm, during summer, amount probably to a couple of thousands, and are an extremely hardworking, civil, and trustworthy set of people. They annually migrate from their native fastnesses for the season, hoping and striving for the means on which to subsist through their long and dreary winter. The women are extraordinary creatures, and possessed of the most indomitable industry and perseverance: they pull all the passage-boats that ply on the lakes round Stockholm, stopped by neither weather nor distance, scarcely resting one whole hour out of the twelve, and, during the height of summer, working till within one of midnight. These "hands" would be a close match to our own Deal boatwomen, a boat's crew of whom beat the best eight-oared "gig" that could be manned by French sailors at the Havre regatta last year,—a match in which gallantry to the fair sex (!) had nothing to do—it being one of genuine hard pulling of several miles, for a considerable sum, enough to cause water-side gallantry to "sheer off," when our aquatic amazons gained the victory, to the rage and vexation of the vanquished Havraise blue jackets. This scene I had the exquisite satisfaction to witness, and was told the women offered to fight the men afterwards for any sum they might venture on, and that the lady-like overture was politely and discreetly refused. The Dalecarlian boatwomen wear their own costume, converse in their own language, and herd together in quite a clannish mode: they dress in the coarse linsey-woolsey petticoat, with a gay striped apron worked in the garment; have a kind of leathern jacket laced in front in a bodice, with silver eyelet-holes and clasps, to which are attached shoulder-straps; they have a head-dress of coarse woollen, edged with scarlet, and in winter another larger jacket made of undressed lamb's-skin, which they wear with the wool inside, and decorated with a long woollen fringe. In hot weather they wear a white linen bonnet trimmed with home-made lace. They have shoes, the soles of which are filled with a couple of pounds' weight of large nails: wide red stockings complete their costume. They are all cleanly in their persons; and as frugal, merry-hearted a set as ever were created. They have, without exception, the most lovely teeth I ever beheld; teeth so white, even, and beautifully formed I certainly never saw but in these hardworking creatures' mouths; and well they try and fixed them, for they invariably eat bread as hard as a stone, and could, I believe, bite the head off an iron ramrod with ease. The boats they work are in imitation of the steam-packet, having paddles and

paddle-boxes, awnings, and accommodation for a dozen passengers. They are of "four Dalecarlian" power, and christened with various names, as the *Swan*, *Gripen*, &c.: other boats are worked by oars, though they are uniformly "manned by women." I became exceedingly interested in the habits and history of this singular people, and resolved upon an excursion on foot into their country, the wildness and primitive state of which, I am told, is well worth viewing. The costume has continued the same without the slightest change through a lapse of several centuries.

With these specimens perhaps our readers will be inclined to agree with us that SYLVANUS might have produced a better book, but that with all its faults it has more substance in it than many that become popular.

FICTION.

Mark's Reef; or the Crater: a Tale of the Pacific. By the Author of "The Prairie," &c. In 3 vols. London, 1847.

COOPER is again before us, and now more wisely upon his peculiar element—the ocean. There he achieved his greatest fame, and there only will he maintain it. Of late years, when he has resorted to the land, he has always failed to please either the critic or the less fastidious patrons of the circulating library.

Mark's Reef is a sort of *Robinson Crusoe*—the narrative of the adventures of one Mark Woolston, who was shipwrecked on an uninhabited island somewhere in the Pacific, with one Bob Betts for his companion. Their labours and sufferings there, their parting and their solitude—the melo-dramatic device by which the hero is transported from his desert throne to a land flowing with milk and honey, where he becomes rich and powerful—a king in a small way,—and how, when he has served the author's purpose there, which was to pour out a needless quantity of bad politics and wretched economics, and illogical argument and dogmatical assertion, by means equally marvellous with those that brought him there, and a great deal more summary,—how he returns to America, and after awhile feels a longing for his old dominions, and sets out again with his friend Bob in search of it—and what they found, or rather did not find, when they reached the place, and the moral that Mr. COOPER deduces from all this—we must leave the reader to seek for himself in the volumes. We can do no more than note their appearance and their subject. COOPER's style is too familiar for criticism, and it is not improved by advancing age. He is more prosy than ever. His dialogues are as tedious—his descriptions as needlessly minute. But still, as formerly, does he sketch oftentimes with extraordinary vividness: he has not lost the faculty of making his personages *real*, and, in spite of all drawbacks, with a due allowance of "skipping" in conversations and catalogues, there are few readers who will not be tempted to follow the story to the end.

It should be stated that the design of the picture of the community which Mark is represented as founding on the Reef, and which he calls "The Crater," is to ridicule certain features in modern colonisation, which he does after this fashion:—

THE COLONY AT CRATER.

Of luxurious idleness, it was perhaps too soon to dread its worst fruits. The men and women retained too many of their early habits and impressions to drop easily into such a chasm; on the contrary, they rather looked forward to producing results greater than any which had yet attended their exertions. An exaggerated view of self, however, and an almost total forgetfulness of God, took

the place of the colonial humility with which they had commenced their career in this new region. These feelings were greatly heightened by three agents, that men ordinarily suppose might have a very different effect—religion, law, and the press.

When the *Rancocus* returned, a few months after the repulse of the pirates, she had on board of her some fifty emigrants; the council still finding itself obliged to admit the friends of families already settled in the colony, on due application. Unhappily, among these emigrants were a printer, a lawyer, and no less than four persons who might be termed divines. Of the last, one was a Presbyterian, one a Methodist, the third was a Baptist, and the fourth a Quaker. Not long after the arrival of this importation, its consequences became visible. The sectaries commenced with a thousand professions of brotherly love, and a great parade of Christian charity; indeed, they pretended that they had emigrated in order to enjoy a higher degree of religious liberty than was now to be found in America, where men were divided into sects, thinking more of their distinguishing tenets than of the Being whom they professed to serve. Forgetting the reasons which brought them from home, or quite possibly carrying out the impulses which led them to resist their former neighbours, these men set to work, immediately to collect followers, and believers after their own peculiar notions. Parson Hornblower, who had hitherto occupied the ground by himself, but who was always a good deal inclined to what are termed "distinctive opinions," buckled on his armour, and took the field in earnest. In order that the sheep of one flock should not be mistaken for the sheep of another, great care was taken to mark each and all with the brand of sect. One clipped an ear, another smeared the wool, (or drew it over the eyes,) and a third, as was the case with Friend Stephen Dighton, the quaker, put on an entire covering, so that his sheep might be known by their outward symbols, far as they could be seen. In a word, on those remote and sweet islands, which basking in the sun and cooled by the trades, seemed designed by Providence to sing hymns daily and hourly to their Maker's praise, the subtleties of sectarian faith smothered that humble submission to the Divine law by trusting solely to the mediation, substituting in its place immaterial observances and theories which were much more strenuously urged than clearly understood. The devil, in the form of a "professor," once again entered Eden; and the Peak, with so much to raise the soul above the grosser strife of men, was soon ringing with discussions on "free grace," "immersion," "spiritual baptism," and the "apostolical succession." The birds sang as sweetly as ever, and their morning and evening songs hymned the praises of their Creator as of old; but, not so was it with the morning and evening devotions of men. These last began to pray at each other, and if Mr. Hornblower was an exception, it was because his admirable liturgy did not furnish him with the means of making these forays into the enemy's camp. Nor did the accession of law and intelligence help the matter much. Shortly after the lawyer made his appearance, men began to discover that they were wronged by their neighbours, in a hundred ways which they had never before discovered. Law, which had hitherto been used for the purposes of justice, and of justice only, now began to be used for those of speculation and revenge. A virtue was found in it that had never before been suspected of existing in the colony; it being discovered that men could make not only very comfortable livings, but, in some cases, get rich, by the law; not by its practice, but by its practices. Now came into existence an entire new class of philanthropists; men who were ever ready to lend their money to such of the needy as possessed property, taking judgment bonds, mortgages, and other innocent securities, which were received because the lender always acted on a principle of not lending without them, or had taken a vow, or made their wives promises; the end of all being a transfer of title, by which the friendly assistant commonly relieved his dupe of the future care of all his property. The governor soon observed that

one of these philanthropists rarely extended his saving hand; that the borrower did not come out as naked as the ear of the corn that has been through the sheller, or nothing but cob; and that, too, in a sort of patent-right time. Then there were the labourers of the press to add to the influence of those of religion and the law. The press took up the cause of human rights, endeavouring to transfer the power of the state from the public departments to its own printing-office; and aiming at establishing all the equality that can flourish when one man has a monopoly of the means of making his facts to suit himself, leaving his neighbours to get along under such circumstances as they can. But the private advantage secured to himself by this advocate of the rights of all, was the smallest part of the injury he did, though his own interests were never lost sight of, and coloured all he did; the people were soon convinced that they had hitherto been living under an unheard-of tyranny, and were invoked weekly to arouse in their might, and be true to themselves and their posterity. In the first place, not a tenth of them had ever been consulted on the subject of the institutions at all, but had been compelled to take them as they found them. Nor had the present incumbents of office been placed in power by a vote of a majority, the original colonists having saved those who came later to the island all trouble in the premises. In these facts was an unceasing theme of declamation and complaint to be found. It was surprising how little the people really knew of the oppression under which they laboured, until this stranger came amongst them to enlighten their understandings. Nor was it less wonderful how many sources of wrong he exposed, that no one had ever dreamed of having an existence. Although there was not a tax of any sort laid in the colony, not a shilling ever collected in the way of import duties, he boldly pronounced the citizens of the islands to be the most overburdened people in Christendom! The taxation of England was nothing to it, and he did not hesitate to proclaim a general bankruptcy as the consequence, unless some of his own expedients were resorted to, in order to arrest the evil. Our limits will not admit of a description of the process by which this person demonstrated that a people who literally contributed nothing at all, were overtaxed; but any one who has paid attention to the opposing sides of a discussion on such a subject, can readily imagine how easily such an apparent contradiction can be reconciled, and the proposition demonstrated.

In the age of which we are writing, a majority of mankind fancied that a statement made in print was far more likely to be true than one made orally. Then he who stood up in his proper person and uttered his facts on the responsibility of his personal character, was far less likely to gain credit than the anonymous scribbler, who recorded his lie on paper, though he made his record behind a screen, and half the time as much without personal identity as he would be found to be without personal character, were he actually seen and recognised. In our time, the press has pretty effectually cured all observant persons at least of giving faith to a statement merely because it is in print, and has become so far alive to its own great inferiority as publicly to talk of conventions to purify itself, and otherwise to do something to regain its credit; but such was not the fact, even in America, forty years since. The theory of an unrestrained press has fully developed itself within the last quarter of a century, so that even the elderly ladies, who once said with marvellous unctious, "It must be true, for it's in print," are now very apt to say, "Oh! it's only a newspaper account!" The foulest pool has been furnished by a beneficent Providence with the means of cleansing its own waters.

But the *Crater Truth-Teller* could utter its lies, as a privileged publication, at the period of this narrative. Types still had a sanctity; and it is surprising how much they deceived, and how many were their dupes. The journal did not even take the ordinary pains to mystify its readers, and to conceal its own cupidity, as are practised in communities more advanced in civilization. We dare say that journals are to be found in London and

Paris, that take just as great liberties with the fact as the *Crater Truth-Teller*, but they treat their readers with a little more outward respect, however much they may mislead them with falsehoods. Your London and Paris Publics are not to be dealt with as if composed of credulous old women, but require something like a plausible mystification to throw dust in their eyes. They have a remarkable proneness to believe that which they wish, it is true; but beyond that weakness some limits are placed to their faith, and appearances must be a good deal consulted. But at the *Crater* no such precaution seemed to be necessary. It is true that the editor did use the pronoun "we," in speaking of himself; but he took all other occasions to assert his individuality, and to use his journal diligently in its behalf. Thus, whenever he got into the law, his columns were devoted to publicly maintaining his own side of the question, although such a course was not only opposed to every man's sense of propriety, but was directly flying into the teeth of the laws of the land; but little did he care for that. He was a public servant, and of course all he did was right. To be sure, other public servants were in the same category, all they did being wrong; but he had the means of telling his own story, and a large number of gaping dunces were ever ready to believe him. His manner of filling his larder is particularly worthy of being mentioned. Quite as often as once a week, his journal had some such elegant article as this, viz.:—"Our esteemed friend, Peter Snooks"—perhaps it was Peter Snooks, Esquire—"has just brought us a fair specimen of his cocoa-nuts, which we do not hesitate in recommending to the housekeepers of the *Crater*, as among the choicest of the group." Of course, 'Squire Snooks was grateful for this puff, and often brought more cocoa-nuts. The same great supervision was extended to the bananas, the bread-fruit, the cucumbers, the melons, and even the squashes, and always with the same results to the editorial larder. Once, however, this worthy did get himself in a quandary with his use of the imperial pronoun. A mate of one of the vessels inflicted personal chastisement on him, for some impertinent comments he saw fit to make on the honest tar's vessel; and this being matter of intense interest to the public mind, he went into a detail of all the evolutions of the combat. Other men may pull each other's noses, and inflict kicks and blows, without the world's caring a straw about it; but the editorial interest is too intense to be overlooked in this manner. A bulletin of the battle was published; the editor speaking of himself always in the plural, out of excess of modesty, and to avoid egotism (!) in three columns which were all about himself, using such expressions as these: "We now struck our antagonist a blow with our fist, and followed this up with a kick of our foot, and otherwise we made an assault on him that he will have reason to remember to his dying day." Now, these expressions for a time set all the old women in the colony against the editor, until he went into an elaborate explanation shewing that his modesty was so painfully sensitive that he could not say *I* on any account, though he occupied three more columns of his paper in explaining the state of our feelings. But, at first, the cry went forth that the battle had been of two against one; and that even the simple-minded colonists set down as somewhat cowardly. So much for talking about *we* in the bulletin of a single combat!

EDUCATION.

The National Spelling-book. London, 1847. Steill.

THE purpose of this spelling-book is to win the child's attention by a large clear type, lessons gently progressive, and illustrated by some 150 very respectable engravings. It is likely to be useful in the nursery.

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS.

The Gentleman's Magazine, for October, has an engraving of Wymondham Church. The con-

tents are of the same character as those which have always distinguished this patriarch of periodicals. Antiquities fill the largest space. The Retrospective Review is another attractive feature; and it is valuable as a work of permanent reference for its scientific intelligence—its excellent Historical Chronicle—and especially for its remarkable Obituary, collected from original sources, and to which we have been, and yet shall often be, greatly indebted. It seldom happens that a number of this Magazine reaches us from which we are not tempted to extract something for which our readers have thanked us. So from this one we take an extremely curious translation of the old Swedish Saga, from which SHAKSPEARE seems to have borrowed the idea, if not the very story, of his grandest work.

THE STORY OF HAMLET (FROM THE SWEDISH SAGA).

During the period when Rörek held the supreme sway in Denmark, the brothers Horwendal and Fengo ruled as subordinate princes in Jutland. Horwendal had already reigned three years, and distinguished himself by bold adventures and viking expeditions, when Köller, the Norwegian king, impelled by envy, and thirst for glory, challenged him to holmgång.* They landed on a fair island in the north sea. The beauty of its shores tempted them to penetrate into the woods, and, unaccompanied, the chieftains met in the centre of the forest. They resolved to prove their swords, and, in order that as far as possible individual valour should decide the cause, they commenced the fight. They first made an agreement that the victor should pay the highest honour to the vanquished, and give two gold marks to his kindred for each considerable wound inflicted on him. This being agreed to by both parties, the combat began. Horwendal, ardent for the fight, grasped his sword with both hands, and, casting away his own shield, cleft asunder that of Köller, wounded him in the foot, and finally struck a mortal blow. He honoured the dead with a pompous interment, and caused a high mound to be raised over his body. After three years spent in viking expeditions, he presented to Rörek the best portion of the spoil, and espoused his daughter Gerutha, by whom he had a son, who was named Hamlet. Fengo, envious of his brother's good fortune, caused him to be murdered, and immediately after married his widow. To give a better colouring to this bloody deed, he gave out that Gerutha, who had never experienced the slightest ill-usage from her husband, was on one occasion in such peril from his hatred and violence, that, to save her life, he slew his brother, as he considered it unfitting that a fair woman should be longer exposed to the daring violence of such a man. His tale was believed, and he married the widow without opposition; even Rörek was satisfied with the explanation.

But Hamlet, who feared his uncle's jealous disposition, feigned himself mad, and prudently concealed his understanding in order to preserve his life. He sat all day by the hearth in his mother's house, amidst the dust and cinders. His body was smeared with dirt, his face disfigured with stains, and his whole exterior indicated the highest stage of insanity. Sometimes, as he sat by the hearth, and scraped amid the ashes with his hands, he would make wooden hooks, and harden them in the fire: and, at the other end of the same piece of wood, he would cut another hook, and carefully conceal it. When asked what he was doing, he replied that he was preparing for himself sharp arrows against his father's murderer. At this answer all the standers-by laughed, for such an undertaking could only seem ridiculous; although subsequently Hamlet found them extremely useful to him. But those who thought more deeply of the matter, inferred, from his desire of vengeance, that he did not want intelligence. As no one now believed that he was really mad, it was thought advisable to try him in various ways. Amongst the youths who for this purpose were commissioned to lead him to a remote forest, there happened to be his foster-brother, who compassionated his fate, and resolved to warn him. But Hamlet himself perceived his danger. When therefore he was about to mount his horse, he seated himself backwards on it, using the animal's tail as a bridle, to the amusement of all. Shortly after they met a wolf in the forest, which his companions declared to be a young horse. Hamlet complained that amongst his uncle's herds he had never seen a similar foal. Arrived at the coast, his companions found the rudder of a wrecked vessel. They

called to him, saying they had found a knife of enormous size. Whereto he replied, that with it they might cut asunder an enormous ham, by which he probably meant the sea, to the depths of which the rudder was suited.

They next called his attention to some sand-hills strewn with pebbles, which they called grits; on which he remarked that those grits were ground by storms and the white foaming waves. Thus failed this and other attempts to detect his secret. A friend of Fengo's then advised that he should be submitted to a still stricter investigation. It was determined that Fengo should feign a journey for some important business, and that during his supposed absence Hamlet should be conducted into his mother's chamber, where a concealed person should listen to their conversation; since, if his madness were simulated, it was certain that he would not conceal the truth from her. He who gave the counsel offered to be himself the listener. Fengo agreed to the proposal, and pretended to be setting off on a long journey, whilst the other went into the queen's apartment, and concealed himself under the straw. But Hamlet hopped about on the straw, as if out of his senses; crowed shrilly like a cock; beat the air with his arms like the flapping of wings; and rushed up and down the hall. He soon remarked also that something moved beneath the straw, and pierced the unlucky courtier through with his sword. He then threw the body into boiling water, and afterwards cast it out to be devoured by unclean beasts. He then addressed his mother, who wept at his supposed madness, in the following words:—

"Why weepest thou for me, thou most infamous of women, who like an adulteress embracest the murderer of thy husband, and art fallen so low as to flatter the man who slew the father of thy son? It is the nature of beasts to forsake one mate for another, and to forget both for a third, and thus it seems that with thee also remembrance of the past is obliterated. Under the semblance of madness I am constrained to conceal my hatred, and to wait an opportunity for revenge. Do thou also mourn over my fate before the world, although thou hast much more cause to bewail thine own. All else must thou conceal!" His mother swore to obey him, and Hamlet resumed his pretended insanity.

When Fengo returned, he caused search to be made for his informant, and even Hamlet was questioned whether he had seen him; but he replied, that he had perished by a fall, and was devoured by unclean beasts, which of course no one believed. Fengo still retained his suspicion, although, through fear of his wife, and of her father, he dared not put Hamlet to death. Therefore he sent him to Britain, and entreated the king of that country to have him destroyed, preferring that the stain of that bloody deed should be on another rather than on himself. Hamlet departed; but before he went, he enjoined his mother to cause the king's apartment to be hung with tapestry, like network, and after the lapse of a year to have a state funeral performed for him, as if he were dead, although he intended to return home at that very time. Two messengers from Fengo travelled with him. They carried with them a runic letter graved round a piece of wood, wherein the king of Britain was requested to destroy the young man sent to him. Whilst the messengers slept, Hamlet searched their baggage, and found the runic scroll. He immediately erased the runes, cut others in their place, and substituted the names of the messengers for his own. He added an urgent entreaty from Fengo that the king would give his daughter in marriage to the young man he sent to him. As soon as the messengers reached England they delivered the letter, unconscious that they were thereby soliciting their own destruction. The king received them with apparent friendship, and caused a great feast to be prepared in honour of them. But Hamlet refrained both from eating and drinking, as if he felt averse to both, which much surprised all present. After the banquet, the king caused his guests to be conducted to their sleeping apartment, but placed persons outside to overhear their conversation. Hamlet, on being questioned by the others why he had not partaken of the feast, said that the bread was mingled with blood, that the ale tasted of iron, and that the meat smelt like human flesh. The king, he added, had eyes like a slave, and the queen shewed by three deviations from the manners appertaining to her rank that she also was of slavish origin. The messengers laughed at him, remembering his former madness, and rebuked him for so maligning their illustrious and hospitable hosts.

These words having been repeated to the king, he inferred from them that his guest must be either superhumanly wise, or else mad; and he inquired of the steward whence the bread was procured. The steward said the baker had made it, who, on being

questioned in his turn where the grain was grown, answered that not far from thence was a field strewn with the bones of dead men, and which, in the expectation of an abundant crop, had been sown with corn. It was possible that the bread had thence derived its flavour. The king was astonished, and next inquired where the meat was brought from. They acknowledged that the swine had escaped from the herdsman, and had devoured the half-decayed corpse of a criminal, which might have imparted to the flesh an unusual odour. The king admired the acuteness of Hamlet's nose, and then asked what had happened to the ale. He desired to be shewn the spring whence the water for the ale was taken, and on digging under it, a sword, more than half consumed by rust, was found. In like manner it was discovered by careful research that he, as well as the queen, were descended from slaves who had been made prisoners of war. Hamlet said that the queen had betrayed her origin,—first, by the habit of covering her head with her clothes, as slaves are wont to do; secondly, by holding up her garments as she walked; and thirdly, by using a wooden toothpick, and swallowing the remnants of food which adhered to her teeth. The king, astonished at such wonderful sagacity, gave Hamlet his daughter in marriage, and considered her ready acquiescence as an inspiration of the gods. The messengers he caused to be hanged the following day, in compliance with what he believed to be Fengo's request. Hamlet affected great indignation at this proceeding, and required the king to make satisfaction for their lives in gold, which he secretly melted and poured into sticks hollowed out for the purpose.

When Hamlet had remained a year in England, he desired leave to travel homewards, and returned to his native land, taking with him only the sticks filled with gold. On reaching Jutland he re-assumed his former habits, and presented himself as if still mad in his mother's house, where a solemn festival was about to be held in remembrance of him. This re-appearance amongst those who had heard that he was dead caused great terror, which, however, soon changed into merriment and joy. When he was asked after his travelling companions, he shewed the sticks filled with gold, which he had received for them. He then mingled with the attendants who served the guests with drink, and, in order to heighten the mirth of the guests, he, too, paid great attention to the drinkers. To avoid being encumbered with his long cloak he gathered it round him, and fastened it with his sword, which he often drew, cutting his fingers thereby, which induced one of the company to take a nail and fasten it into the scabbard. In order more effectually to carry out his design, he diligently encouraged the guests to drink, and induced them to take so much that at length, drowsy with wine, they made the royal hall where they had been drinking their sleeping place. This was an opportunity Hamlet would not let escape him. He therefore fetched his wooden hooks, went into the hall where the guests were sleeping off their excess, cut down the hangings from the walls, and drew them over the sleepers, securing the net with the hooks, so that not one of those who lay beneath it could stir. He then set fire to the house, and entered the king's chamber, where he found him drunk and snoring. He took down the king's sword and hung his own in its place, and then awakened Fengo, saying, he was come to demand vengeance for his father. Fengo started up and seized the sword, but could not draw it. He, however, defended himself for a time with the scabbard, but at length fell, pierced through by Hamlet.

As Hamlet knew not what his countrymen might say to this daring action, he concealed himself; and when on the following day the people came to the spot, they beheld amidst the ruins of the burnt palace only half-consumed corpses, but no living man to tell how the destruction had occurred. Some were enraged, others lamented; but some, on the contrary, allowed their secret satisfaction to transpire. Hamlet then quitted his hiding-place, collected his own friends, and those of his father, and delivered to the assembled States a discourse, wherein he represented his father's virtues, and told them that they ought long before to have done that which he had now performed. All were moved by his words, some even to tears; and, as soon as their emotion subsided, he was saluted king with unanimous applause, for all greatly esteemed his prudence, which had enabled him with such deep cunning to keep his design so long concealed, and to execute an almost incredible deed of daring. Hamlet now equipped three ships with great magnificence, and sailed to Britain to visit his father-in-law and wife. He had in his suite the most noble youths of his country, in order that, as he had hitherto not displayed his dignity, he might now appear with all the lustre that be-

* From holme (island), and gång (walk), meaning encounter on island; there, by strength of arms, to decide quarrels or mastery.

seemed him. He also caused to be painted on his shield all the events that had occurred to him from his earliest youth, and, to render his appearance still more splendid, the shields borne by his followers were of gold. The king of England met his guest with friendly hospitality and regal magnificence. During the banquet he inquired if Fengo was still alive and in health, whereupon Hamlet informed him that Fengo had perished by the sword. By dint of many questions, the king at length elicited that he who now announced the death of Fengo was himself his destroyer. This discovery struck the king to the heart, for he had solemnly sworn to Fengo that he would be his avenger. Affection for his daughter and son-in-law strove in his breast against the oath he had sworn to his foster-brother. At length fidelity to his vow triumphed over parental love; but still he could not prevail on himself to violate the laws of hospitality by slaying Hamlet in his own palace. He therefore commissioned him to court for him another wife, his own having lately died. There reigned at that time in Scotland a virgin queen called Hermutrud, whom the king much desired to espouse; but she, being as jealous of her liberty as she was harsh in her disposition, had hitherto persecuted and put to death all her suitors, so that not one now remained.

Hamlet was well aware of the danger of his undertaking, but he nevertheless proceeded on his way, accompanied by his own suite as well as the king's servants. He reached Scotland, and when within a short distance of the castle where Hermutrud dwelt, he caused the over-ridden horses to be turned loose to pasture in a meadow, and laid himself down to sleep by a murmuring brook, having first placed guards around the spot. The queen sent forth spies, one of whom succeeded in passing through the guards unperceived. He took Hamlet's shield from under his head, together with the letter to the queen, and delivered them both to his sovereign. She examined the shield attentively, guessed by the representations on it who the stranger was, and remembered his wise conduct, and how he had avenged his father's death. She erased the writing in the letter where the old man besought her hand, as she preferred a young husband to an old one, and substituted for it another writing wherein she was requested to become the wife of the bearer. She next caused the representations on the shield to be copied so that the writing and the picture mutually explained each other, and then commanded the spy to return with the letter and shield. Meanwhile Hamlet had perceived the loss of his shield, but he still kept his eyes closed and pretended to sleep, foreseeing that the bold thief would return, as his first enterprise had been so successful. He was not deceived in his expectation, for the spy returned with the shield; but, as he was endeavouring to replace it under Hamlet's head, the latter started up, seized him, and caused him to be fettered. He then awakened his followers, and proceeded to the castle, where he delivered to the queen his father-in-law's letter. Hermutrud having read it, commended Hamlet's wise conduct, said that Fengo had been justly slain, and rejoiced at the fortunate issue of his plan. Therefore, added she, although hitherto she had been entirely adverse to all suitors, and although she was a high-born queen, she was now disposed to follow him as his wife, if he, not for her beauty alone, but above all on account of her high estate, would bestow his affection on her. Saying these words, she fell on his neck. Hamlet was greatly pleased with this reception, returned her embrace, and assured her that their love was reciprocal. Preparations were immediately made for their nuptials; and, after the bridal banquet, he returned to England accompanied by a chosen band of young Scotchmen. He was met by his wife, who, although she felt herself insulted by her husband taking another wife, would yet not forsake the man to whom she had borne a son, and vowed to love her rival, even though she should be hated by her; at the same time she warned Hamlet to be on his guard against her father's plot. Whilst she was yet speaking, the old king appeared; he embraced his son-in-law, and invited him to a banquet. Hamlet took with him 200 Scottish knights, put on armour under his clothes, and approached the royal hall. As they were passing beneath the archway of the portals, the king hurled a lance at Hamlet, which would have killed him but that the armour turned aside the blow. He however received a slight wound, and retired to the spot where he had commanded his Scotch friends to wait, and dispatched Hermutrud's spy to the king to relate to him all that had taken place. The enraged king pursued him with his host, and attacked Hamlet's band, the greater part of whom were cut to pieces. During the night Hamlet, who despaired of victory, caused the fallen to be

propped up by sticks and stones, and placed the corpses upon the dead horses, which were similarly raised up. At the unexpected appearance of these, whose number seemed doubled by the shadows they cast around them, the foes were so terrified that they fled. The king himself was taken in his flight, put to death, and Hamlet, taking with him his wives and rich spoils, left Britain, and returned to his native Jutland. During these transactions King Rörek had died in Denmark, and his successor Wigleth, after persecuting Hamlet's mother in various ways, deprived her of all her treasures, because Hamlet ought not without his permission to have assumed the government of Jutland. Hamlet at first softened him by gifts; but when an opportunity for revenge offered, he attacked the king, and forced him to flee. Wigleth, however, collected an army from Skonen and Zealand, and challenged Hamlet to fight. After some hesitation, caused by his affection for his wife, Hamlet finally resolved to accept the defiance; whereupon Hermutrud vowed that she would follow him, and not survive him; but when Hamlet fell in the combat, she gave herself up to the conqueror, and voluntarily became his wife. Such was the end of Hamlet, who, if his good fortune had equalled his wisdom, might have rivalled the gods in honour and glory. His sepulchre is still to be seen on a plain in Jutland, which to this day bears his name.

RELIGION.

Endeavours after a Christian Life. Discourses, by JAMES MARTINEAU. In 2 vols. Second Edition. London, 1847. J. Chapman.

THAT these remarkable *Discourses* should have reached a second edition does somewhat surprise us. Speculative theology is so much more popular than practical Christianity, that a series of sermons devoted to the latter must have presented some very attractive features, apart from their subject, thus to have won readers and admirers for pages that aspire only to teach them what to do, and not what to believe. But the fact that a second edition has been called for, proves that some minds have been found ready to receive an eloquent exposition of the principles of Christianity in action—eager to learn what are good works, and how they are to be performed; and pleased to read in Mr. MARTINEAU's *Discourses* the expansion and application to the purposes of self-improvement and social existence of the text, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

When we say that these *Discourses* are eminently practical, we mean that they are adapted, not only for man in the abstract—to teach the duties of Christianity everywhere—but also with express reference to the circumstances of society,—of the age and country in which our lot is cast. Mr. MARTINEAU does not limit his exhortations to the trite theories which usually occupy the moral discourses of the commonplace preacher, but he ranges into those which are so strangely shunned in our churches, but which come home to the heart and hearth of every man, and are more needed to guide his conduct in the daily duties of life, private and public, than aught that he is wont to hear reiterated from the pulpit, and which loses its influence from its very triteness. For instance, to the vast majority of an audience, a sermon on the wickedness of stealing, however eloquent, however true, is practically worthless, for two reasons: first, because they are not likely to need the warning; secondly, because they were as well aware of the wrongfulness of theft before as after the preacher had expended his energies in enforcing it. But if, instead of a theme so hackneyed, he were to turn to those

multitudinous offences which, though not within the purview of the criminal law, are still within the prohibitions of the great moral code of Christianity,—as mammon-worship, the wickedness of war, the law of kindness, the public duties of the citizen, the wrongfulness of selling the elective franchise for the bribe of wealth, or yielding it to the dictation of the customer or landlord—and a thousand such like topics which every week would suggest, and to which passing events would give a practical turn, so that the listener might be induced at once to convert theory into practice, and to do as well as to feel rightly, how different would be the result! With what attention would the practical preacher be heard! How would his words find an echo in the hearts of his listeners! How we should trace the results of his teachings in a higher standard of social as well as personal morals throughout the neighbourhood of his mission! How would Christianity come to be loved and listened to, and understood, and spread abroad, and be, as it were, a living faith, because, being seen in its fruits, it would be known by its fruits, and the proofs of its uses would be plainly spread before the eye, and the most thoughtless would see and acknowledge them, and learn to value properly the religion that shews its beauty in its results.

Such a preacher is Mr. MARTINEAU—such discourses are those before us. And the best evidence of their thoroughly practical character, their world-wide Christianity is, that after an attentive perusal, we are unable to discover from any sentiment or expression that appears to what sect of Christians the writer belongs. We presume that he is not of the Church of England only because the title of "Reverend" is not prefixed to his name upon the title-page; but, for aught we can discover in the volumes, he might be one of the many excellent pastors of our church, who, taking part with neither of the parties into which it is unhappily divided, are content to leave dogma to dogmatists, politicians, and hunters after popularity, and to do their duty to God and man, by teaching the Christianity of Christ, as He has himself proclaimed it in the Gospels—the Christianity of action, and illustrating by his own life the principles he proclaims. Such a man, we say, but for the absence of the title, we should have concluded Mr. MARTINEAU to be. If not that, we know not to which of the numerous sects to attach him. Perhaps he is not a preacher at all, but his discourses are the productions of an eloquent layman, who employs the press to diffuse valuable lessons custom forbids him to utter with his lips. Whoever or whatever he be, certain at least it is that he has contributed to the literature of Christianity one of the most interesting, most attractive, and most valuable series of essays which it has received from priest or layman for many a year.

The subjects are very various, and thrown together without order, each discourse being complete in itself. The titles of a few will shew their wide range. "Great Principles and Small Duties," "Sorrow no Sin," "Religion on False Pretences," "Immortality," "Christ's Treatment of Guilt," "Hand and Heart," "Winter Worship," "The Christianity of Old Age," "The Shadow of Death," "Great Hopes for Great Souls," "Help Thou mine Unbelief," "The Child's Thought," "The Family in Heaven and Earth," "The Single and the Evil Eye," "The Sphere of Silence," "Where is thy God?" The style is singularly bold and eloquent, without an approach to the frothiness, so often found in sermons. All is vigour and substance; there is a thought in

every sentence; no words are wasted; the technicalities of the pulpit are sedulously eschewed.

These are characteristics which none so well know how to value as the reviewer for a literary journal, condemned to peruse the sound and tinkle which compose nine-tenths of the numerous volumes of sermons that are laid upon his table asking a notice. After these inflations, for the most part made up of texts blown into bubbles till they lose all their meaning, commonplace sentiments, a few truths universally admitted, and the whole inlaid with interjections, which some seem to consider pious, while to others they look much like profanity,—it is, we repeat, delightful to turn from such pretentious nothings to volumes that have in them both intellect and true eloquence, and which satisfy the understanding while they please the taste and improve the heart. Such are the discourses before us, from which we take a few passages that will, better even than ought we could advance in their praise, commend them to the regards of the reader.

How beautifully does he find in the early life of our Saviour a type and a lesson for the life of the young Christian!

THE YOUTH OF CHRIST AND OF THE CHRISTIAN.

Nearly twenty years elapsed. Boyhood passed without events. The slight flush of the youthful soul had fled. Vainly did Mary notice how a light, as from within, came upon his features, as he bent over his daily toil, or forced him to pause, as if in some secret and ineffable colloquy. Though the life of God within him was strong enough to win the world, and give direction to its reverence for ever, he was a villager still, serving the same necessities, and pacing the same track of custom as others. It was inevitable that the spiritual force within him should make insurrection against the narrow and cramping conditions by which it was confined; that it should strive to burst its fetters, and find or create a career worthy of itself: in short, that we should find Jesus no longer at Nazareth, but in the wilderness; led thither in spite of himself, of interest and comfort, of habit and home, by the beckoning of the divine image in his heart. That solitude he was impelled to seek, that he might grapple face to face with the evil and earthly spirits that beset our path, disengage himself from the incumbrances of usage and of doubt, and struggle into a life befitting one who stands in immensity and dwells with God. To the eye of the outward observer he may appear altogether quiet, sitting on the bleak rock in the collapse of feebleness and rest. Nevertheless, in that still form is the most terrible of conflicts; an exchange of awful defiance between Heaven and Hell; a heaving and wrestling of immortal powers, doing battle for the mind of Jesus, and suspending on that moment the souls of millions and the destinies of the world. His holy spirit won the victory; the angels of peace and power led him forth; and the transition was made from the obscurity of ordinary toil to the glory of his everlasting ministry. Now, in the development of all earnest and noble minds there is a passage corresponding with this scene. There is a time when their image of duty grows too large for the accidental lot in which it is encased, and seeks to burst it—when human life changes its aspect before the eye, and custom can no longer shew it to us as a flat dull field, where we may plough, and build, and find shelter and sleep; but it swells into verdant slopes, that lie around the base of everlasting hills, whose summit no man can discern, passing away as a dim shape into the blue infinite where not a cloud can linger. There is a crisis when every faithful son of God is agitated by a fierce controversy between the earthly and the divine elements of his nature. Self and the flesh seductively whisper, "Thou hast a life of many necessities; earn thy bread and eat it; and pay thyself for all thy trouble with a warm hearth and

a soft bed." The voice of God thunders in reply, "Thy life is short, thy work is great; thy God is near; thy heaven is far: do I not send thee forth, armed with thought and speech, and a strong right hand, to contend with the evil and avenge the good? Indulge no more, or I shall leave thee; do thy best, and faint not; take up thy free will, and come with me." By some such conflict does every great mind quit its ease to serve its responsibilities; part, if need be, with the sympathy of friends and the security of neighbourhood, in fidelity to duty; and suffer wasting and loneliness, as in the bleakest desert, till temptation be vanquished, and hesitancy flung aside.

In another discourse he contends that the largest aims of the intellect are compatible with the discharge of the minutest and humblest cares of life.

GREAT PRINCIPLES AND SMALL DUTIES.

It is an error to suppose that homely minds are the best administrators of small duties. Who does not know how wretched a contradiction such a rule receives in the moral economy of many a home?—how often the daily troubles, the swarm of blessed cares, the innumerable minutiae of arrangement in a family, prove quite too much for the generalship of feeble minds, and even the clever selfishness of strong ones; how a petty and scrupulous anxiety, in defending with infinite perseverance some small and almost invisible point of frugality and comfort, surrenders the greater unobserved, and while saving money ruins minds; how, on the other hand, a rough and unmeliorated sagacity rules indeed and without defeat, but while maintaining in action the mechanism of government, creates a constant and intolerable friction, a grating together of reluctant wills, a groaning under the consciousness of force, that make the movements of life fret and chafe incessantly? But where, in the presiding genius of a home, taste and sympathy unite (and in their genuine forms they cannot be separated)—the intelligent feeling for moral beauty and the deep heart of domestic love,—with what ease, what mastery, what graceful disposition, do the seeming trivialities of existence fall into order, and drop a blessing as they take their place! how do the hours steal away, unnoticed but by the precious fruits they leave! and by the self-renunciations of affection, there comes a spontaneous adjustment of various wills; and not an innocent pleasure is lost, nor a pure taste offended, nor a peculiar temper unconsidered; and every day has its silent achievements of wisdom, and every night its retrospect of piety and love; and the tranquil thoughts that, in the evening meditation, come down with the starlight, seem like the serenade of angels, bringing in melody the peace of God! Wherever this picture is realised, it is not by microscopic solicitude of spirit, but by comprehension of mind, and enlargement of heart; by that breadth and nicety of moral view which discerns every thing in due proportion, and in avoiding an intense elaboration of trifles, has energy to spare for what is great; in short, by a perception akin to that of God, whose providing frugality is on an infinite scale, vigilant alike in heaven and on earth; whose art colours a universe with beauty, and touches with its pencil the petals of a flower. A soul thus pure and large disowns the paltry rules of dignity, the silly notions of great and mean, by which fashion distorts God's real proportions; is utterly delivered from the spirit of contempt; and in consulting for the benign administration of life, will learn many a task, and discharge many an office, from which lesser beings, esteeming themselves greater, would shrink as ignoble. But in truth, nothing is degrading which a high and graceful purpose ennobles; and offices the most menial cease to be menial, the moment they are wrought in love. What thousand services are rendered, aye, and by delicate hands, around the bed of sickness, which, else considered mean, become at once holy and quite inalienable rights. To soothe the pillow, to proffer the draught, to soothe or to obey the fancies of the delirious will, to sit for hours as the mere sentinel of the feverish sleep;—these things are suddenly erected, by their relation to hope and life, into sacred privileges.

And experience is perpetually bringing occasions, similar in kind though of less persuasive poignancy, when a true eye and a lovely heart will quickly see the relations of things thrown into a new position, and calling for a sacrifice of conventional order to the higher laws of the affections; and alike without condescension and without ostentation, will noiselessly take the post of gentle service and do the kindly deed. Thus is it that the lesser graces display themselves most richly, like the leaves and flowers of life, where there is the deepest and the widest root of love; not like the staring and artificial blossoms of dry custom that, winter or summer, cannot change; but living petals woven in Nature's workshop and folded by her tender skill, opening and shutting morning and night, glancing and trembling in the sunshine and the breeze. This easy capacity of great affections for small duties is the peculiar triumph of the highest spirit of love.

(To be continued.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

Wisdom for the Age; or, Common Sense for those who want it, &c. London: Steill.

A FEW common-sense views of commonplace topics, such as personal appearance, family prospects, romance-reading, self-rule, rest, honour, parochial policy, and so-forth. It is composed in the form of dialogues, and mingles fun with wisdom. The author's satire is rather broad at times, but it hits the mark, and is well deserved.

JOURNAL OF AMERICAN LITERATURE.

Voyage up the Amazon. By WILLIAM H. EDWARDS. New York: Appleton & Co.*

A MOST elegant and gentlemanly Turk, whose whole atmosphere breathed of weight and stateliness, being invited to an English entertainment, looked with mingled expressions of surprise and shame upon his fine countenance, as he beheld guest after guest take a stand upon the floor, and dance with great earnestness and solemnity. Unable to bear the scene any longer, he gently touched the sleeve of the host and inquired, "Why do you not let your servants do this for you?" Now in the process of luxury, we are certainly reaching the very same point of refinement already attained by the Turk. Every nook and corner of the broad earth is being explored, and we have nothing to do but recline in cushioned armchairs, and with bouquet or cigar in hand, as the sex may justify, luxuriate in the results of all the toil, trouble, and learning of scores of travellers.

For ourselves, we doubt if we should desire to have a more living sense of the power and tenacity of the carapanas or mosquitoes, than what we get from the graphic descriptions of Mr. Edwards; and as to eating monkey, parrot, and alligator tail, we confess to a preference in doing such things by proxy. But the book abounds with the most alimentive-provoking descriptions of fruits and flowers, that stir one's remaining drops of Eden blood at the naming, and these we would prefer in *proprio personâ*.

Truly this is a most agreeable and readable book, with little in the way of startling incident, yet plunging one directly into the labyrinthine luxuriance of a tropical region. We feel interested and amused in all the odd conceits and whims of a man bent upon enjoyment, who makes no parade about what he is doing.

The author left New York, February 1846, in the bark *Undine*, Capt. APPLETON, for Pará, and from thence "ascended the Amazon to a higher point than to his knowledge any American had ever been before;" then follow impressions, excursions, and descriptions, all given with the utmost directness and familiarity. Hear him tell of the *pets* of Pará.

Our first excursion extended no further than the garden at the rear of the house; but even that little

* This notice of a recent American publication of great interest is taken from the *Literary World*.

distance opened to us a new world. It was laid out in home-style, with neat walks, and raised flower-beds. A number of curious birds were skulking among the shrubbery, or stalking along the path with the dignity and self-possession of birds at home. The domestication of wild birds we afterwards found to be common throughout the province. They are restrained from truancy by the high fences that surround the gardens; and ibises and spoonbills, varieties of herons, rails, *et multi alii*, are as frequently seen as domestic fowls. But the legitimate occupants were of greater interest than these strangers; and here grew in perfection the banana, the orange, the fig, the tamarind, the cotton-tree, the sugar-cane; and over the fence, on the soil of a neighbour, a lofty cocoa-tree displayed its clusters of ripening nuts. Instead of the puny sensitive-plant, that, in the north, struggles almost hopelessly for frail existence, a giant shrub threw out its nervous arms, all flowering, and the attraction of passing butterflies. Amid this profusion, there was nothing to remind us of the home that we had left; but, afar off, in one lone corner, stood a solitary stalk of Indian corn, lank and lean, an eight-feet spindling, clasped nervously by one sorry ear. Poor thing! it spoke touchingly of exile.

Passing out of the garden, our next visit was complimentary to an eel: not one of the unhallowed denizens of muddy ponds, or stagnant waters; but an electrical eel, large and handsome, swimming about in his tub of clear rain-water, with the grace of a water king. This fellow was about four feet in length, and along his whole lower part extended a wide fin, by whose curvings he appeared to propel himself. We often, afterwards, amused our leisure in observing this eel, and in experimenting upon his electrical power. This did not seem to be concentrated in any particular part, or organ, for touch him where we would, the violence of the shock seemed the same, and equalled an ordinary shock from a machine. When very hungry, or particularly spiteful, he would transmit his power through the water to a considerable distance. His usual food was crabs, and when these were thrown in to him, he swam towards them, stunned them by a touch of his head, and either caught them immediately, or allowed them to fall to the bottom of the tub, to be devoured at leisure. These eels are common in the small streams about Pará, and indeed throughout the whole northern part of the continent, and they often attain great size. One that we afterwards saw at Senhor Pombos was about six feet long, and five or six inches in diameter. We heard frequent accounts of their power over large animals in the water. The negroes catch them by first teasing them, until they have exhausted the electrical power. We ate of them, at different times, but they were too fishy in taste to be agreeable, without strong correctives. Near by, was disclosed to us a young anaconda, nicely coiled up in the bottom of a barrel, and looking as innocent as a dove. This fellow was pointed out as something rather diminutive, but to our unfamiliar eyes, a snake of ten feet in length seemed very like a monster. His customary food was rats. These snakes are kept about many houses in Pará for protection against rats, and two who had escaped from Mr. Norris's barrels, now prowled at large, and effectually cleared the premises of these vermin. They are perfectly harmless, and never molest domestic fowls or animals upon the premises, excepting now and then a young chicken."

A description like this is apt to engender discontent at the *scenings* of our northern clime, but then we remember that our black snake is a very respectable constrictor, and may be kept in a barrel, likewise, to kill rats; our ducks and geese do very well for orderly domesticity, although not hardly as unique as "ibises and spoonbills;" as to the eel, we might offset him with a rattlesnake.

The multitudinous grandeur of these Brazilian forests must transcend all description; in our closets we feel their denseness; as we read, the solemnity of these great alcoves stills the heart like the cathedral hymn. Here is a night upon the Amazon.

The scenery about the mill is very fine. In front, the stream, a broad lake at high water, and a tiny brook at other times, skirting a low meadow, at the distance of a hundred rods, is lost in the embowering shrubbery. All beyond is a dense forest. Upon the meadow, a number of large fat cattle are browsing on the coarse grass, and flocks of Jacanas, a family of water-birds remarkable for their long toes, which enable them to step upon the leaves of lilies and other aquatic plants, are flying with loud cries from one knoll to another. Back of the mill, the road leads

towards the city, and to the right and left are well-beaten paths, leading to small, clear lakes, from which the mill derives its water. The whole vicinity was formerly a cultivated estate, but the grounds are now densely overgrown. At the distance of a mile, the road crosses what is called the first bridge, which spans a little stream that runs sporting through the woodland. The colour of the water of this, and other small streams, is of a reddish cast, owing, doubtless, to the decomposing vegetation. It is, however, very clear, and fishes and eels may at any time be seen playing among the logs and sticks which strew the bottom. Beyond this bridge is the primeval forest. Trees of incredible girth tower aloft, and from their tops one in vain endeavours to bring down the desired bird with a fowling-piece. The trunks are of every variety of form, round, angular, and sometimes resembling an open net-work, through which the light passes in any direction. Amid these giants, very few low trees or little underbrush interferes with one's movements, and very rarely is the path intercepted by a fallen log. But about the trees cling huge snake-like vines, winding round and round the trunks, and through the branches sending their long arms, binding tree to tree. Sometimes they throw down long feelers, which swing in mid air, until they reach the ground, when, taking root, they in their turn throw out arms that cling to the first support. In this way the whole forest is linked together, and a cut tree rarely falls without involving the destruction of many others. This creeping vine is called sepaw, and, having the strength and flexibility of rope, is of inestimable value in the construction of houses, and for various other purposes. Around the tree-trunks clasp those curious anomalies, parasitic plants, sometimes throwing down long, slender roots to the ground, but generally deriving sustenance only from the tree itself, and from the air; called hence, appropriately enough, air-plants. These are in vast numbers, and of every form, now resembling lilies, now grasses, or other familiar plants. Often, a dozen varieties cluster upon a single tree. Towards the close of the rainy season, they are in blossom, and their exquisite appearance, as they encircle the mossy and leafed trunk, with flowers of every hue, can scarcely be imagined. At this period, too, vast numbers of trees add their tribute of beauty, and the flower-doomed forest, from its many-coloured altars, ever sends heavenward worshipful incense. Nor is this wild luxuriance unseen or unenlivened. Monkeys are frolicking through festooned bowers, or chasing in revelry over the wood arches. Squirrels scamper in ecstasy from limb to limb, unable to contain themselves for joyousness. Coatis are gambolling among the fallen leaves, or vying with monkeys in nimble climbing. Pacas and agoutis chase wildly about, ready to scud away at the least noise. The sloth, enlivened by the general inspiration, climbs more rapidly over the branches, and seeks a spot where, in quiet and repose, he may rest him. The exquisite, tiny deer, scarcely larger than a lamb, snuffs exultingly the air, and bounds fearlessly, knowing that he has no enemy here.

Birds of gaudiest plumage flit through the trees. The trogon, lonely sitting in her leaf-encircled home, calls plaintively to her long absent mate. The mot-mot utters his name in rapid tones. Tucano, tucano, comes loudly from some fruit-covered tree, where the great toucans are rioting. "Noiseless chatters" flash through the branches. The loud rattling of the woodpecker comes from some topmost limb; and tiny creepers, in liveliest of the gayest of the gay, are running up the tree-trunks, stopping now and then their busy search, to gaze inquisitively at the strangers. Pairs of chiming-thrushes are ringing their alternate notes, like the voice of a single bird. Parrots are chattering, paroquets screaming. Manakins are piping in every low tree, restless, never still. Woodpeckers, the "birds of the painted breasts," fly startled; and pheasants, of a dozen varieties, go whirring off. But, most beautiful of all, humming-birds, living gems, surpassing aught that's brilliant, save the diamond, are constantly darting by; now stopping an instant to kiss the gentle flower, and now furiously battling some rival humble-bee. Beijar flor, kiss-flower, 'tis the Brazilian name for the humming-bird, beautifully appropriate. Large butterflies float past, the bigness of a hand, and of the richest metallic blue; and from the flowers above comes the distant hum of myriads of gayly-coated insects. From his hole in the sandy road, the harmless lizard, in his gorgeous covering of green and gold, starts nimbly forth, stopping every instant, with raised head and quick eye for the appearance of danger; and armies of ants, in their busy toil, are incessantly marching by. How changed from all this is a night scene! The flowers that bloomed by day, have closed their petals, and, nestled in their leafy beds, are dreaming of their loves. A

sister host now take their place, making the breezes to intoxicate with perfume and exacting homage from bright, stary eyes. A murmur, as of gentle voices, floats upon the air. The moon darts down her glittering rays, till the flower-enamelled plain glistens like a shield; but in vain she strives to penetrate the denseness, except some fallen tree betrays a passage. Below, the tall tree-trunk rises dimly through the darkness. Huge moths, those fairest of the insect world, have taken the places of the butterflies, and myriads of fire-flies never weary in their torch-light dance. Far down the road comes on a blaze, steady, streaming like a meteor. It whizzes past, for an instant the space is illumined, and dewy jewels from the leaves throw back the radiance. 'Tis the lantern-fly, seeking what he himself knows best by the fiery guide upon his head. The air of the night-bird's wing fans your cheek, or you are startled by his mournful note, wac-o-row, wac-o-row, sounding dolefully, by no means so pleasantly as our whip-poor-will. The armadillo creeps carelessly from his hole, and, at a slow pace, makes for his feeding-ground; the opossum climbs stealthily up the tree, and the little ant-eater is out pitilessly marauding. All this supposes pleasant weather; but a storm in these forests has an interest, though of a very different kind. Heavy clouds come drifting from the east, preceded by a low ominous murmur, as the big drops beat upon the roof of leaves. Rapidly this deepens into a terrific roar; the forest rocks beneath the fury of the blast, and the crashing fall of trees resounds fearfully. Tornadoes are unfrequent; but one, while we were at the mills, swept through the forest; now hurling aside the massive trees like weightless things, and now, tripping carelessly, only taking tribute of the topmost boughs—sportive in its fierceness. We were struck by the absence of thunder and lightning in the furious pourings of the rainy season. The clouds came to their daily task gloomily, as though pining for a holiday, and, in the weariness of forced toil, forgot their wantonness.

As to eating monkeys, opinions and taste will need differ upon the point. We should bethink ourselves of the Egyptian gods, and question whether the act might not be sacrilegious; we should image the naughty Satyrs of old, and scruple to digest alimentively what the elegant Greek had transformed into a sylvan deity; we should think of every little ugly imp that bestrides a body in the menagerie, or presents a hat in behalf of the organ-player, and begin to speculate as to what degree of intelligence is requisite to souldom, and the monkey would cool before we should decide the point; and if the truth must out, we should think of Lord Monboddos's men, and our philosophy would ooze out like Falstaff's courage. Happily, our author found a less circuitous path by way of decision.

Not unfrequently the fruit of our hunting excursions was a monkey, and we considered this most acceptable, as it furnished our table with a meal, delicious, though not laid down in the cookery books. These animals are eaten throughout the province, and are in esteem beyond any wild game. Whatever repugnance we felt at first was speedily dissipated, and often, in regard to this as well as other dishes, we had reason to congratulate ourselves that our determination or partaking of whatever was set before us, discovered to our acquaintance many agreeable dishes, and never brought us into trouble.

Many erudite commentators have been in doubt as to the animal which caused the death of Tom Thumb, and naturalists have questioned as to the qualities ascribed to the tarantula, but after reading of a Brazilian spider, as described below, we trust all doubt will be for ever laid to sleep.

We encountered a spider, leisurely crossing the road, that might rival the tarantula in bigness. A sharpened stick pinned him to the earth, and we bore him in triumph to town. Across his outstretched legs none of us could span, and his sharp teeth were like hawk's claws. This species spins no web, but lives in hollow logs, and probably feeds upon huge insects, perhaps small animals, or birds.

The travellers encountered many agreeable personages on their route, and were received by the residents, Spanish, Portuguese, and American, with the most cordial hospitality. Senhor GODINHO seems to have been a humorist, and not indisposed to amuse himself with the very natural love for the marvellous, so predominant in all sight-searchers.

A letter from Senhor Godinho to his wife re-

quested her to send us a singular pet animal, which the Senhor described as small, having a broad tail, with which, umbrella-like, it shielded itself from the rain, and lightning-like capacity for moving among the trees, now at the bottom, and, quicker than thought, at the top. But most curious of all, and most positively certain, this little quadruped was hatched from an egg. We suggested to the Senhor various animals, but our description of none answered. Of course, curiosity was at a boiling point. We had heard of furred animals with ducks' bills, and hairy fish that chewed the cud; of other fishes that went on shore and climbed trees; of two-headed calves, and Siamese twins; but here, at last, was something unique—an animal hatched from an egg—more wonderful than Hydrargoses, and a speculation to make the fortunes of young men of enterprise. All day we waited, and nothing came; the next morning dawned, the noon bell tolled, and we, at last, concluded that the Senhor had been loath to part with so singular a pet, and that the instructions of her honoured lord were to be unheeded. Dinner came, soup was on our plates, spoons were in our hands, and curiosity had expended itself by its own lashings, when a strange footstep was heard at the doorway, and a well-dressed, dusky Rachel appeared, bearing a carefully covered cuya intuitively to A—. Here was the wonder. What is it? What can it be? What is it like? Down went soup-spoons; suspense was painful. First, unrolled a clean, little white sheet—second, another of the same,—the slightest possible end of a tail protruded from under a third, a little round nose and a whisker peeped from the remaining cotton,—and up leaped one of the prettiest little squirrels in the world. The little darling! Everybody wanted him; everybody played with him; and for a long time, he was the pet of the family, running about the house as he listed.

Birds, flowers, shells, all excite the enthusiasm of the travellers, and the skies bend over them with a depth and effulgence most beautiful and impressive.

At night, we preferred the open air to the confinement of the cabin, and never wearied in admiring the magnificence of the skies, or in tracing the fantastic shapes that were mapped out upon them in a profusion inconceivable to those who are only acquainted with the skies of the northern hemisphere. I have alluded to this before; but so interesting a phenomenon deserves further notice. This increased brilliance of the tropical skies is owing to the purity of the atmosphere, which is absolutely free from those obscuring, murky vapours that deaden light in other latitudes. The sky itself is of the intensest blue, and the moon seems of increased size and kindlier effulgence. For one star at the north, myriads look down with a calm clear light, and great part of the vault is as inexplicable as the milky-way. Most beautiful in appearance, and interesting from association, is the Southern Cross, corresponding with the Great Bear of the north. This constellation is of four stars, of superior brilliance, arranged in the form of an oblique-angled cross. Just above these, and seeming to form part of the same constellation, is the Centaur. Orion is in all his glory, and the Scorpion trails his length, most easily recognised by all. All the other zodiacal clusters are conspicuous, and a kindred host we do not care to name.

Before the close of the voyage, the vessel became literally crowded with birds, turtles, and every species of pet, which stalked in all directions, putting all quiet and order at defiance; at length it was determined to reduce this state of things.

We longed to know what sort of arrangements Noah made for his parrots. Thus far, ours had been left pretty much to their own discretion, and the necessity for an immediate "setting up of family government," was hourly more urgent. The macaw, no wise contented with his elevation, had climbed down, and was perpetually quarrelling with a pair of green parrots, and, all the time, so hoarsely screaming, that we were tempted to twist his neck. The parrots had to have a pitched battle over every ear of corn, and both they, and the macaw, had repeatedly flown into the water, where they but narrowly escaped a grave. There were two green paroquets and one odd one, prettiest of all, with a yellow top, and they could not agree any better than their elders. Yellow-top prided himself on his strength, and considered himself as good as a dozen green ones, while they resented his impudence, and scolded away, in ear-piercing tones that made the cabin an inferno. At other times, they all three banded together, and trotting about deck, insulted the parrots with their impertinences. When a flock of their relations passed

over, the whole family set up a scream, which might have been heard by all the birds within a league; and if a duck flew by, which was very often, our geese would call in tones like a trumpet, and the guan would shrilly whistle. When we came to the shore, we were obliged to shut up our protégés in the tolda, or they were sure to scramble up the nearest limb, or fly into the water, and swim for the bank. Really, it would have troubled a Job; but we could see no relief.

Our noisy additions from Santarem made longer endurance out of the question, and after long threatening, at last we succeeded in "setting up the family government." As the first overture thereto, a rope was crossed a few times in the tolda. Upon this the arara and the parrots were placed, with the understanding that they might look out of the door as much as they pleased, and be invited thence, at regular hours, to their meals; but that further liberties were inadmissible and unattainable. So there they sat, scarcely knowing whether to laugh or cry. The paroquets were stationed at the afterpart of the cabin, and the change, which had come over one of the green ones from Barra was amusing. She had been the wildest and crosslest little body on board, always resenting favours, and biting kindly hands. But since the lately-received young ones had been put with her, she had assumed all the watchfulness of a mother, feeding them, taking hold of their bills and shaking them up to promote digestion, and generally keeping them in decent order. She had no more time to gad about deck, but soberly inclined, with the feathers of her head erect and matronly, she stuck to her corner, and minded her own business. Meanwhile, Yellow-top looked on with the calm dignity of a gentleman of family.

The reader will not fail to find both amusement and instruction from the book; and as he recognises the badness of government in this beautiful region, the latent wealth, the immense resources of the country, the needs of the people all combined, his Anglo-Saxon spirit will not fail to foresee to the be of the hereafter, when the Isthmus of Panama will be no hindrance to the graspingness of Republican Anglo-Saxonism.

DECORATIVE ART.

A DECORATIVE ART-UNION.

WE have long entertained a design which we are anxious to bring under the notice of our readers, in hope that it may receive their approval in the first instance, and then their active co-operation towards its practical accomplishment. We will endeavour to explain it in a few words.

We presume that all are acquainted with the principles of the Art-Union Society. It is composed of annual subscribers of one guinea. The proceeds are applied to the purchase of an engraving, a copy of which is given to each subscriber, and may be worth about 4s. or 5s. and the remainder is distributed in the form of prizes, varying from 600*l.* to 10*l.* conditioned to be spent in the purchase of pictures at one of the exhibitions for the year, at the prices named in the catalogue.

By this means a very large sum is annually accumulated and spent in the purchase of pictures, forming in some degree an encouragement to art, but far less than, by better management, it might be made to yield. Practically, the choice of the pictures is left to the prizeholders, and there is notorious jobbing in the conduct of the negotiation between the artist and the buyer. It is equally certain that the choice of a miscellaneous body of purchasers selected by lot is not always directed by the real worth of the picture chosen; so that true art does not, in fact, find the encouragement that might be expected. On the contrary, encouragement is given to meretricious art, and painters are tempted to work with an eye to the bad tastes of possible buyers from the Art-Union, rather than with a view to the advance of their art. Still the public patronise the Art-Union, and the dis-

tant chance of a prize is sufficient to extract many thousands of guineas every year.

Now, we propose to establish a Society upon the principle of the Art-Union, but avoiding its faults, and likely to be still more popular. As that is designed for the encouragement of Painting as a Fine Art, so we propose a Society for the encouragement of Decorative Art.

Our plan is as follows:—

We propose a DECORATIVE ART-UNION, the subscription to be half-a-guinea, instead of a guinea; the proceeds to be thus applied:—

Instead of pictures and engravings, we propose to employ this fund in the purchase of works that belong to the class of Decorative Art, meaning by this the application of taste to purposes of utility, such as all the ornaments and furniture of a house, which do not properly belong to the category of the Fine Arts.

That the advancement of Decorative Art may be thus assured, we should propose that every article be original in design, and that the design be the property of the Society; so that the prizes may never become common, and therefore of diminished value. That the Society having ascertained its funds, should determine upon a list of subjects, apportioning a liberal reward to the successful competitors, with power to purchase any of the others they may deem worth possessing.

The objects submitted for competition to be opened to a public exhibition in the season, previously to the drawing.

Finally, all the articles purchased by the Society to be drawn for after the manner of the Art-Union prizes.

The advantages of such a Society to the country, and its attractions to the subscribers, are manifold.

In the first place, it would give a vast stimulus to Decorative Art, and consequently, by the superior taste it would encourage and reward, to the commerce and manufactures of the country, and thus be a national benefit.

To the members it will afford the chances of the possession of some article for household decoration that would be at once useful and ornamental, and, therefore, so preferable in the estimation of the vast majority of the subscribers to such societies to a picture they cannot appreciate, which they cannot sell for half its cost, or an engraving which they see in every house. Instead of some twenty or thirty prizes to be distributed, there would be some two or three hundred, because no one would absorb 600*l.* or even 300*l.*, 50*l.* being probably the utmost that would be allotted for one object of Decorative Art.

The Exhibition would bring together the taste and skill of every part of the country, and at the same time diffuse it still more widely.

Such, briefly stated, is the outline of the plan we have been long considering, and which, we are confident, needs but to be understood to be approved. We should like to employ the winter in procuring a body of subscribers sufficient to carry it into actual operation in the next season. Do our readers approve it? Will they co-operate? Will they who think sufficiently well of it at once to transmit their promise to become subscribers, if it should be formally commenced; and will they, one and all, make it their business to inform their friends of the proposition, and procure their names also to be added to the list of intended members? If sufficient of these be received to shew that the plan pleases, and is likely to be supported, arrangements shall be made for the organization of the Decorative Art-Union. Through the pages of THE CRITIC, which will carry the proposition into every part of the United Kingdom,

the suggestion can be discussed, without expense, and a sort of canvass for subscribers be made through the help of our readers, which will afford a fair test of the probabilities of success, before any cost is incurred. We throw out the idea as it has suggested itself to us, and for the present commend it to the consideration and aid of our readers.

ART.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

THE fresco painters at the House of Lords and Osborne House have stayed their labours for the season. This art cannot be pursued in winter.—The Society of Arts gives signs of animation. It has lately issued an address reviewing the efforts of other associations to further the aim which it also has in view. It rejoices that its labours will thus be lightened. The Society will continue active, though the mode of its labours will be changed. The committee say they "may still encourage, as formerly, the artist in every department of his art—in historical, in landscape, and familiar life paintings; in sculpture, and in ornamental design. All these branches may be applied decoratively, without lowering history or landscape, but giving grandeur and elevation to decoration. With these views, the Society has revised its class of Fine Art premiums. It purposes to award prizes for the best designs uniting art and manufacture, and with these for the best compositions whether painted or modelled, to be employed in architectural decorations, to fill the spandrels of arches, friezes, panels, &c. Experience of the works of Raphael, Andrea Mantegna, Polidoro, Ghiberti, shows how the highest art may be applied to decorative purposes. Another class of prizes will be established for the encouragement of careful studies in the same direction. And the object of these prizes being strictly educational, they will be limited to students of a certain age; the Society's aim being to educate a class of students who shall be prepared to enter into successful competition for the prizes previously mentioned, and to guide their efforts towards those points of general utility where their talents may be remunerated. A beginning has been made during the two past sessions, and with no little success, to encourage an improved character of design in manufactures. Prizes having the same object in view will therefore be continued, and their scope enlarged."—The painting by Raphael, known by the name of the *Virgin of Loretto*, of which there are numerous copies, though the original has long been believed to have been lost, or destroyed, has been at last found at Genoa, by the Marquis de Spinola, Grand Chamberlain, and President of the Albertine Academy. The distinguished connoisseur, instead of converting this precious discovery to enrich his own collection, has offered it to the King of Sardinia, who at once decided upon making the acquisition. All the artists of Turin have examined it, and pronounced it to be authentic.—Kneller Hall, formerly the residence of Sir Godfrey Kneller, and built by him, has been purchased by Government. "The staircase, which goes to the height of two stories, is," says a writer, "very interesting,—as it is supposed to have been painted by himself. The subjects on three sides, as well as the ceiling, are allegorical. That on the west side next the hall, representing Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, evidently contains portraits—perhaps of Sir Godfrey and his family. The paintings being only on lath and plaster partitions, have suffered considerably; but it is to be hoped they will now be carefully restored, and preserved in their original position."—The King of the French has decided upon placing the portrait of M. Coletti in the gallery of the celebrated men of Europe in the museum at Versailles.

MUSIC.

MUSICAL CHIT-CHAT.

HERR STAUDIGL has left London for Vienna. It is uncertain whether he will be able to obtain leave

of absence from the Imperial Chapel during the winter, so as to enable him to accept an engagement from M. Jullien for Drury-lane.—The result of the Gloucester Festival has been very satisfactory. The sums collected for the benefit of the widows and orphans of clergymen belonging to the dioceses of Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester, amounted to 686l. 2s. 11d.—being about 150l. more than was collected in 1841 and 1844: and it is expected that further donations will be sent by persons who were not able to be present at the meeting.—The Parisian season is rich in promise, according to the *Musical World*:—The chief features at the Academy during the week past has been the *reprise* of the *Muette de Portici*, and the *début* of Poulitier in *Masaniello*, after an absence of several years from the opera. The engagement of Mademoiselle Albouy is spoken of as a certainty. This announcement has created a great sensation in musical circles. It is said she will make her *début* at the latter end of the present month. Cerito and St. Leon will appear in a new ballet, written expressly for them, with music by Pugnani, about the same time. Verdi's opera is in rapid progress. The third act has been rehearsed. The *Théâtre Italien* opened on Saturday with *Il Don Giovanni*. Grisi, Persiani, Corbari, Lablache, Mario, Tagliafico, and Polonini were the chief executants. All were excellent, except Coletti, whose *Don* was very indifferent. A great concourse of visitors attended.—Tamburini is in Paris, having arrived some days since. He would have departed last week for St. Petersburg, but for the sudden indisposition of his son.—Roger, the celebrated tenor of the *Opéra Comique*, intends to set out for Italy after the expiration of his present engagement.—A new work by Auber is spoken of as about to appear at the *Opéra Comique* in Paris.—A new opera, the first essay in theatrical music of the pianist Litoff, has been produced at the Court Theatre in Brunswick, and received, according to the newspaper reports, with enthusiasm; and the French company, who have been playing successively at St. Petersburg, Berlin, and Hamburg, have now opened a campaign in the Swedish metropolis.—Signor Costa has been unanimously elected a member of the Royal Society of Musicians. Charles Knyvett is the senior member of the institution, having been elected in the year 1784. Francois Cramer was elected the same year, but two months later than Knyvett.

The Musical Bouquet. Edited by GEORGE J. O. ALLMAN. Part XL.

We are glad to hear that the great improvements manifested by this periodical since it has been placed under the editorship of Mr. ALLMAN are meeting the success they deserve. The reason is, that, instead of filling it with bad "originals," he has the good taste to select the best music of great masters, which he edits carefully, and presents in its most correct form, and at a price that places it within the reach of every family. Thus, the number before us contains the complete overture to *La Gazza Ladra*, two of the best airs from *Anna Bolena*, and WEBER'S *L'invitation pour la Valse*.

THE DRAMA AND PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

THEATRICAL CHRONICLE.—No novelty has been presented during the past week, but the tocsin of preparation is sounding around. There is much talk of the popularity to which the young "legitimate" at Marylebone has already attained. Managers begin to see that Mr. PHELPS's success was no phenomenon,—that cause and effect were closely linked. And the result is a general effort to improve the *status* of companies—to equalise their talent, and to heighten their value, not by an introduction of "stars," but by a judicious selection of good performers.—The new play by Mr. MARSTON is in rehearsal at the Haymarket, in order to its immediate production; Miss HELEN FAUCIT and Mr. CRESWICK being cast for the two principal characters. The title of the

drama is quaint but imposing—*The Heart and the World*. The dialogue is partly in verse and partly in prose.—The Queen Dowager has sent a donation of 10l. to Mr. FREDERICK BEALE, 201, Regent-street, for the benefit of the children of the late favourite vocalist, Madame ALBERTAZZI.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—SHAKSPEARE'S *King Henry the Eighth* was revived here on Wednesday, after having been for many years a stranger to the London boards. The announcement excited great interest, and the house was crowded in every part, attracted not alone by the novelty of the play, but by the combination of the talents of Miss CUSHMAN and MACREADY. The play, although one of SHAKSPEARE'S finest works, as a composition for the study, is not a good acting play from its want of incident and story. It is somewhat heavy, and labours through five acts, when all the interest is over on the death of *Katherine* in the fourth act. But Mr. MADDOX has displayed great taste and liberality in the *mise en scene*, which tends much to relieve the inherent dullness of the drama itself. MACREADY'S *Cardinal Wolsey* was a masterpiece. He looked the churchman; always subtle, always subdued in manner and tone; never losing self-command save at the last moment of intensest agony, when he makes the terrible exclamation, "If I had but served my God, &c." The earlier scenes, save in his look of malignity at *Buckingham*, afforded no opportunity for the display of his powers. It was in the third act, when his fall was certain, that the genius of the actor shewed itself in all its greatness. The famous soliloquy was a wonderful effort—admirable in the reading, perfect in the acting, and most impressive in the representation. The audience were delighted, and he was unanimously called before the curtain at the close of the Act to receive their congratulations. Miss CUSHMAN'S *Queen Katherine* was, to our taste, an admirable performance, subdued, impressive, full of pathos and feeling. Quiet dignity was manifestly her aim. Some say she wanted the dignity; but certainly it did not so appear to us. She was the queen always,—and the woman in her strongest emotions was never permitted to subdue the queen. The first scene in the presence-chamber was exquisitely read; as a piece of declamation it was perfect. But her triumph was in the last scene. Never by any actor, in any country or time, was the "sickness unto death" so wonderfully represented. Look, tone, gesture, the posture of the anguished limbs on the couch, the change that passed over her features as the attendant sung the hymn that had been wont to soothe her, cannot be described, and words are wanting sufficiently to applaud them. They must be seen, and they will never be forgotten. Miss SUSAN CUSHMAN played *Anne Boleyn* very prettily, as becomes the character. Mr. RYAN'S *Buckingham* was effective. But what shall we say of COOPER'S *Henry the Eighth*? It was a burlesque; BLAND'S swagger was outdone. We found ourselves laughing more than once. True, the amorous king is called "bluff Harry;" but COOPER evidently mistakes the meaning of "bluffness." It is not another term for buffoonery. "Oh! reform it altogether!"

THE LYCEUM.—This theatre, under the management of MADAME VESTRIS and CHARLES MATHEWS, opens on Monday with a promising playbill. We anticipate a great treat.

DRURY LANE.—JULLIEN continues his delightful concerts, varying the performances almost every evening, and mingling selections of the choicest music of the great masters with the more popular quadrilles, waltzes, and polkas of his own composing, in which he excels all other caterers for the public taste. His band is as perfect as ever. They have but one ear, one lip, one hand; or, rather, all lips and hands are moved by one soul. Not only do they play together, they feel together. Hence their exquisite harmony. Miss DOLBY sings a beautiful Swiss song, that will soon find its way into every drawing-room. Although always crowded, the house is never hot, so admirably is it ventilated.

NECROLOGY.

RICHARD BRINSLEY PEAKE.

THE obituary of the week records the death of Richard Brinsley Peake, aged fifty-five, at his residence, Cleves Lodge, Queen's-elms. Mixing with the dramatic world from his boyhood, and living nearly all his life in the midst of a jealous and easily-offended circle, with whose affairs, desires, ambitions, prospects, and disappointments he was intimately concerned, it is our firm belief that he so conducted himself throughout as never to make one enemy (justly he never could).

and to secure the respect, goodwill, and friendship of all who knew him. As stage-manager, as author, as private individual, he placidly held on the even tenor of his way; though all who are acquainted with theatrical matters must be aware that the "way" must have often been thorny enough, and its calm interrupted by many a storm. But it seemed almost impossible to ruffle or irritate the fine disposition of Dick Peake: even his own failures were borne with the spirit of a philosopher, and he would confess that an audience was quite right in condemning any of his productions, only hoping that when improved it might have a run, as it was his fate "generally to be — on a first night;" and so it was: there was a peculiar originality and quaintness in his humour, so out of the common line, that it was not always understood by the public, till repetition made them familiar with his allusions, points, and hits; then it was felt, and a number of his pieces continue to be lasting favourites on the stage. The father of Mr. Peake was long the Treasurer of Drury-lane Theatre, and the intimate of Sheridan, whence his son's name and early intercourse with the theatre and its performances and performers, and the social sphere which sprang out of their relations. Of his godfather he saw much, and could many a tale unfold. His close connection with Mr. Arnold during a number of years, his management at the Lyceum, and his productions from time to time, raised him to dramatic and literary celebrity; and, though less prominently than before, he continued to the close of his life to contribute his compositions to the stage. In society and among friends, the manners and conversation of Mr. Peake were particularly agreeable and entertaining. His fund of pleasantry was inexhaustible, and the quiet tone in which it was measured out, either in anecdote or witty remark, gave it an increased effect. The smile was sure, when the broad laugh was not extorted. His works in dramatic and periodical literature are far too numerous and extensive to be enumerated at present; and we sincerely lament to see it stated in the daily newspapers that he has left a large family in very indifferent circumstances. Is it ever to be thus with literary labourers?

COLONEL HANMER WARRINGTON,

During thirty-three years the representative of England at Tripoli, died at Patras, on the 18th of August. Independently of the faithful discharge of his official duties, Col. Warrington distinguished himself by his pursuit and encouragement of archaeology, and from him we received very interesting information, not only in regard to Carthaginian and Roman antiquities, but also to the philology of the native regions and the people who are spread along the coast and into the interior of the country. We are inclined to think that his researches and collections in both these branches must be of considerable value, and we trust they will not be lost to the public.—*Literary Gazette.*

M. ALEXANDRE BROGNIART,

The well-known mineralogist, died at Paris on Friday, the 1st instant, in his 78th year. He was director of the royal porcelain manufactory of Sèvres, at which he resided.

JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, &c.

THE CHOLERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

SIR,—The steady advance of the cholera westward appears to have called public attention to its probable reappearance in England before long; and a paragraph in one of the London papers, of Friday, leads me to believe that the majority of persons will depend for protection upon any preparation which is advertised as a "disinfectant," erroneously believing that all disinfectants have the same power over the virus which creates disease as they have over unpleasant smells. Allow me to correct this error by detailing the results of my experience during the visitation of this horrible malady in 1832, when, as a chemist, I laid myself out for a close examination into the cause, mode of propagation, and check for it. For this purpose I obtained information of, and visited in person, all the earliest cases which shewed themselves in this city generally, and in each and great public establishments in particular. For some time I attended almost daily at the cholera hospitals, and experimented, in every way I could think of, upon the dead and living subjects, their contents and

ejecta, the atmosphere surrounding them and their articles of clothing. The conclusions I arrived at I forward for the information of those who have not had the same opportunities.

1. That the cause of cholera is a putrid animal poison, capable of being recognised by the smell by some, emanating from and surrounding the dead or living cholera-subject or articles of clothing.

2. That it is not sulphuretted hydrogen or hydro-sulphuret of ammonia, as it does not decompose salts of lead or zinc, and when passed through nitrate of silver it only forms a red solution when exposed to light.

3. That it is only received into the living body through the lungs, and cannot be propagated by inoculation.

4. That infection can be conveyed by articles of clothing, bedding, &c.; and that washerwomen are more subject to infection than ordinary persons from that cause.

5. That all persons are not equally liable to infection from equal exposure, and even the same individual becomes more sensitive under certain circumstances.

6. That the poison is destroyed by chlorine gas and a heat of 300 deg. Fahrenheit.

As the object of the present communication is merely to give the public opinion a right direction so as to help the future boards of health to combat this insidious and powerful enemy, I must at once state that the two most popular disinfectants of the day—the chloride of zinc and the nitrate of lead, known as Sir W. Burnet's and Ledoyen's, will be of no avail, although they will promptly remove ordinary putrid effluvia. The only chemical preventive I depended upon in my numerous exposures to the virus was chlorine gas, and this I believe to be a perfect one if the fumigation is complete. I invariably passed through an atmosphere of it on my return home, and kept it escaping in my residence during the continuance of the disease in the city. I also placed large quantities of the substance necessary for the evolution of this gas in the hands of a Bristol druggist, who was kind enough to distribute 1,200 quantities of it gratuitously to applicants during three days with instructions for the use, and am happy to say that during that time the deaths fell from ten to one per day; and I have but little doubt that if every ship arriving in England from an infected place, should be exposed to a perfect fumigation with chlorine, we shall be preserved from the infection. If the disease should pass this cordon, by any accident, that every house in the infected district should be simultaneously fumigated with it—say three times a day: unless done in all houses at the same time, it would be useless, or nearly so; and to do it effectually, a mixture of three parts of common salt and one of black oxide of manganese should be placed just inside the outer or street door of the dwelling-house, and a little common vitriol poured upon it. The inward current of air will convey the chlorine gas to every part of the interior, and wherever it can be smelt the effect is produced—the miasm is destroyed. If articles of clothing are infected, and the colours likely to be injured by the gas, they may be heated in an oven or on a kiln, to 250 or 300 degrees (about the heat of baking bread), when they might be handled or used with perfect impunity.

I am, Sir, &c.

Bristol, Oct. 11. WILLIAM HERAPATH.

JOURNAL OF MENTAL PHILOSOPHY.

PAINLESS OPERATIONS AMONGST THE ARABS.

—We have received the following interesting communication from a correspondent at Aden, a British settlement or fortification on the coast of Arabia Felix. It is dated August 28, 1847, and has therefore been about a month in transmission:—"A very successful operation was performed a short time ago in Aden, Arabia Felix. The patient was an Arab, from near Mecha, on the Red Sea, and had been labouring under carcinomatous elephantiasis (leprosy cancer, we believe) of the right leg for several years past, and had tried all the native remedies; but as the disease was gradually getting worse, he, as a last resource, determined to try what the Feringhee, or English doctors, could do, their fame having spread. Previous to amputation, the ether was inhaled for upwards of ten minutes, when he became apparently quite insensible, and the leg was removed midway between the knee and hip, by the acting civil and port surgeon, Mr. J. Vaughan (who, we believe, is a son of Hugh Vaughan, esq. of Llwynmadock, Radnorshire). During the whole of the operation the man appeared as if asleep, and awoke just as the last one or two arteries were being taken up. On being questioned afterwards, he expressed himself as hav-

ing been quite unconscious, and had felt nothing; immediately afterwards he commenced vociferating and giving no end of praise to Mahommed and all those around him. As you may imagine, an operation without pain has astonished the natives amazingly: the result, no doubt, will be, that the sick natives from all parts of the interior of Arabia will be coming to Aden for medical assistance. The surrounding country, for a wonder, is quiet just now, the supplies being brought in regularly: the average number of camels coming and going daily are about four hundred. The French (I imagine in opposition to the English) have just commenced to form a settlement on the opposite coast at Ras Hafoon, a few miles to the southward of Cape Gardafui: they have already managed to quarrel with the natives of the surrounding country, so it is likely they will not be able to retain possession long.—*Hereford Journal.*

Heirs-at-Law, Next of Kin, &c. Wanted.

[This is part of a complete list now being extracted for THE CRITIC from the advertisements that have appeared in the newspapers during the present century. The reference, with the date and place of each advertisement, cannot be stated here without subjecting the paragraph to duty: but the figures refer to a corresponding entry in a book kept at THE CRITIC Office, where these particulars are preserved, and which will be communicated to any applicant. To prevent impertinent curiosity, a fee of half-a-crown for each inquiry must be paid to the publisher, or if by letter, postage stamps to that amount enclosed.]

1119. GEORGE FOX, who was in the employ of Mr. Adolphe Adrian, of 2, Bedford-square, Commercial-road East, Middlesex, fur manufacturer. *Something to advantage.*

1120. NEXT OF KIN OF FRANCES EDWARDS, who married Thomas Bennett, at St. Bartholomew-the-Great, city of London, on April 10, 1768, and died at Eltham, Kent, about the year 1817. She is supposed to have come from some county in Wales. *Something to advantage.*

1121. NEXT OF KIN OF JOSEPH HOBBS, of Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square, Middlesex, builder (died in March 1835), or their personal representatives.

1122. NEXT OF KIN OF CHARLOTTE IVORY, who was a widow, and is supposed to have died somewhere in the Borough or Bermondsey, London, about twenty-seven years ago. *Something to advantage.*

1123. RELATIONS OF NEXT OF KIN OF GEORGE DE GRAVE, formerly of 5, Gloucester-street, St. James's, Clerkenwell, afterwards of 3, Well-yard, Little Britain, city of London, bachelor, a depositor in the Montague-street Savings Bank, and who died March 3, 1840. *Something to advantage.*

1124. NEXT OF KIN OF THOMAS SPOONER, of George-yard, Lombard-street, London, and of Hornsey, Middlesex (died in March 1839), or their representatives.

1125. HEIR-AT-LAW OF THE REV. WM. BEAUMONT BUSBY, D.D. Dean of Rochester.

1126. REPRESENTATIVES OF JOHN SHAW, of No. 4, King-street, Chesham, and of RICHARD FRISBY, of Mark-lane, merchants, who were by the Court of Chancery appointed as trustees of the creditors of Rowland and Henry Rugeley, formerly of South Carolina, and subject to the rights of the said John Shaw and Richard Frisby, or their representatives, as trustees of the said creditors. Susan Rugeley, of Patten, or her representatives, and the heirs of Rowland Rugeley and Henry Rugeley, and of their brothers and sisters, to apply. *Something to advantage.*

1127. NEXT OF KIN OF CHARLES DAY, of Harley-house, Regent's-park, and of Edgware, Middlesex, who carried on the business of a blacking manufacturer in Holborn (died October 26, 1836), or their representatives.

1128. NEXT OF KIN OF TABITHA ADAMS (formerly TABITHA SPENCER), of Islington, Middlesex, afterwards the wife of John Norman, of the same place, gentleman, and since the wife of Charles Adams, of North-street, City-road, glover. She died in December, 1835; or their representatives.

1129. NEXT OF KIN OF JAMES KEEGAN, of the Flying Horse, Oxford-street, London, licensed victualler (died July 7, 1820), or their representatives.

1130. RELATIONS OF NEXT OF KIN OF HENRY MADDOX, late of Alcanbury, Huntingdon, died May 24, 1840. *Something to advantage.*

1131. RELATIONS OF NEXT OF KIN OF JAMES PUTTOCK, late of Ivy Church, Kent, labourer, died May 2, 1840. *Something to advantage.*

1132. RELATIONS OF NEXT OF KIN OF MICHAEL WHITE, late a pauper inmate of the Eton Union Workhouse, parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey, Bucks. Died November 13, 1819. *Something to advantage.*
(To be continued weekly.)

ADVERTISEMENTS.

The scale for advertising in THE CRITIC is

For 50 words or less 5s.

For every additional 10 words .. 6d.

For which a post-office order should be inclosed.

N.B. For insertion in the first page the charge is one-fourth more, if expressly ordered for that page.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

GOSSIP OF THE LITERARY WORLD.

THE purchasers of Shakspeare's house are getting into difficulties, for subscriptions do not come in so fast as they had calculated. Mr. Vernon has sent 500*l.*—the only contribution of note we have heard of during the last week.—The Glasgow papers mention an instance of individual munificence. A private citizen, the late Mr. James Alexander, a merchant in Glasgow, has bequeathed the residue of his large fortune, amounting to from 50,000*l.* to 60,000*l.* to endow an hospital for the education, the clothing, and, if necessary, the support of poor children of both sexes in that city.—Lord John Russell has presented to Mrs. Thom, mother of the late Mr. Robert Thom, Consul at Ningpo, China, 250*l.* out of the Queen's Bounty Fund. Mr. Thom, we understand, has acquired a new claim on the gratitude of his country by devoting the last week of his life to preparation for publishing another work on his favourite topic. It is entitled *The Chinese Speaker*. Elementary works in Chinese literature have long been felt to be a desideratum. The production of Mr. Thom goes far to supply the want.—Mr. Hobbes, who holds a situation in the dockyard at Sheerness, applied to the Lord Mayor at the Mansion-house on the 5th. He said he had been for five or six years in the government service in India during the late war there, and had written an account of what occurred during his stay; this manuscript, after having communicated to him its nature, he some months since forwarded to the editor of *Tait's Magazine*, by the desire of the editor, requesting an early decision thereon, as, from the interest it possessed being temporary, delay would necessarily lower the value. He had since made repeated applications, but had been unable to get a decision upon it, or to get it returned; all he could hear of it from the editor was that a literary friend had been attracted by it and had taken it away. The manuscript Mr. Hobbes considered, at the time it was sent, to be worth 200*l.* He had offered to take 20*l.* and had threatened to take proceedings in law, but had received no further answer. He now considered the manuscript to be valueless, from the fact of the temporary interest having passed away. The Lord Mayor said that an appeal to Scotch law would be next to useless, but he was sure the press of London would readily assist him. He had frequently had occasion to ask its assistance in exposing cases of this kind. Mr. Hobbes thanked his lordship and retired.—The workmen engaged in repairing some wainscoting in the mansion of Mr. Bathurst of Sydney Park, Gloucestershire, have found, in a recess behind one of the panels, a pile of old books and manuscript sermons. The mansion was formerly in the possession of Sir John Wintour, a distinguished Catholic and Royalist in the time of Charles the First;—so that it is conjectured the documents may have been hidden there in the days of the Revolution.—The *Gazzetta Privilegiata di Lucca*, of the 27th ult. contains the new law for the press in Italy. It allows every person the right of publishing his opinions, and discussing the acts of the government; it forbids all publications contrary to the Christian religion, public morals, and the rights of the Sovereign; as also all offences against governments, magistrates, ministers of worship, foreign princes and their representatives, and all writings directly subversive of public order or the safety of the state. A committee of preventive censorship, composed of three censors and two substitutes, is established, against whose decision an appeal may be laid before a superior council of censorship, composed of five members and two substitutes. The approval by one censor establishes the right of publication. Transgressions of the present law are punished with fine from 25 to 200 lire, and imprisonment from a fortnight to six months in the first instance; for a second transgression the amount of fine and term of imprisonment are doubled.—A Danish letter, dated from Copenhagen, the 26th ult., informs us of the destruction, the same morning, of the rich and valuable library of the Royal Society of Icelandic Literature in that capital.

The loss is distressing, inasmuch as this library contained more than 2,000 unpublished MSS., and a numerous collection of single copies of ancient Icelandic works.—Signor Carlo Guzzoni Degli Ancarani, in a letter to the Chevalier Salvatore Betti (published in a Roman newspaper) announces the discovery of an unpublished "Life" of Fra Girolamo Savanarola, dictated by Brother Serafino Razzi, of the order of Preachers. At the end of the MSS. are some poems of Girolamo, which (especially a canzonet on the happiness of Florence) are sufficient to stamp him as a poet. A Florentine journal proposes the erection of a monument in honour of this celebrated man, on the site of his convent. A stanza in the *Ottava rima* is selected from the poems in question as a proof of the truth of the above critical dictum. The subject is a pious invocation of the Deity.—The Chateau of Ferney, the well-known abode of Voltaire, has found its way once more into the market.—The Scientific Congress now sitting at Venice, has resolved that its sittings in 1848 shall be held at Sienna, and in 1849 at Bologna.—The Hewlett fund has now reached the sum of 1,600*l.* The committee state that "1,500*l.* has been laid out in the purchase of Three per Cent. Consols," and "the exertions made to place the children in advantageous positions have been so far successful as to prevent the necessity for any immediate charge upon the fund."—Literary efforts seem to be converged into the desire to help people in giving thanks to-morrow. No less than six authors have come out with their "helps" or "suggestions" during the past week. Do such writers expect readers?—The eclipse on Saturday last was not plainly visible in any part of the country. In London, clouds and rain were effectual obstacles; at Liverpool, the sight was allowed only "throughout part of its duration;" and at Edinburgh and Glasgow the disappointment was equally great. At Liverpool the eclipse began about fifteen minutes before sunrise, or nearly six o'clock; but, owing to haze, it was not seen until about a quarter before seven, when about a fourth of the sun's surface was covered by the smaller planet. The disc of the moon being smaller to the eye at the time than that of the sun, when the eclipse assumed a segmental or rounded form, gave that portion of the sun that was seen the shape of crescents of varied position and wideness, but all inclining to the eastward. Had the moon been nearer the earth at the time, the eclipse when seen annular would have been total. At the nearest approach to the annulus the crescent (of horse-shoe form) embraced about four-fifths of the circle of the sun's eastern margin, and was rather narrow, with sharp and well-defined termini, pointing to our N.W. The commencement and termination of the eclipse shewed, respectively, where they were seen, like arched indentures in the sun's margin. Two circles cut out of paper, the one rather larger than the other, laid on a table, and the smaller one gradually passed over the other from N.W. to S.E. keeping the smaller (the moon) on the west side of the disc of the larger (the sun), will illustrate the phenomenon in its successive stages, and the more accurately if the smaller be moved on a gentle curve or segment (the moon's orbit), arching towards the N.W. and passing over the centre of that representing the sun.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Blewer's (W.) Tables for Calculating the Value of Stock and Annuities, 3rd edit. corrected by J. B. Brize, 16mo. 7s. 6d. cl.
 Communion Service (The) Considered by Philo-Biblion, fcap. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl. gilt.—Crauford's (Rev. Sir G. W.) Examination Questions and Answers on Butler's Analogy, 3rd edit. fcap. 8vo. 1s. 6d. cl. limp.
 De Porquet's English and Foreign Ready Reckoner, 3rd edit. 18mo. 2s. 6d. roan, gilt.—Derwar (Dr.) on the Holy Spirit, His Personality, Divinity, Office, and Agency, fcap. 8vo. 5s. cl.—Davies's (Rev. R.) Suggestive Hints towards an Improved Secular Education, 12mo. 2s. 9d. cl.—Dickens's Pickwick Papers, Thirty-two Plates to illustrate the Cheap Edition, 12mo. 1s. 6d. swd.
 Farr's (Edw.) Bible Biography, 2nd edit. fcap. 8vo. 4s. cl.—Flak's (Rev. Geo.) Pastor's Memorial of the Holy Land, 4th edit. post 8vo. 7s. 6d. cl.
 Garden Almanac (The) and Floral Calendar, for 1848, fcap. 8vo. 6d. swd.—Gully (Dr. J. M.) on the Water Cure in Chronic Diseases, 2nd edit. post 8vo. 7s. cl.

Marryat's (Capt.) Children of the New Forest, a Tale, Vol. II fcap. 8vo. 4s. cl.—Markwick's (A.) Guide to the Examination of the Urine in Health and Disease, 12mo. 4s. cl.—M'Caul's (Rev. A.) Introduction to Hebrew Grammar, for the Use of Beginners, 8vo. 4s. cl. limp.—Mary and her Mother; being a Sequel to 'Scriptural Stories,' &c. 5th edit. 18mo. 3s. cl.—Morrison's (Dr. J.) Christianity in its Power, fcap. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.—Morris's (R.) Analytical Digest of Selected Practice Cases, decided in Common Law Courts, 8vo. 16s. cl.
 Nicholls and Doyle's Practice in Insolvency, in the Courts of Bankruptcy, 2nd edit. with Supplement, 12mo. 12s. 6d. bds.
 Puckle's (Rev. John) Parochial Sermons, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
 Snow (Dr. J.) on the Inhalation of Ether in Surgical Operations, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Traveller's Almanac (The) for 1848, and Guide to all Parts of the Kingdom and Abroad, with Railway Map, fcap. 8vo. 1s. sewed.—Tyler (Rev. J. E.) on the Image-Worship of the Church of Rome, 8vo. 9s. cl.
 Vyner's Notitia Venatica: a Treatise on Fox-hunting, new edit. with Illustrations, royal 8vo. 15s. cl.
 Williams's (Rev. J. de Kewer) Catholic Doctrine; or, Basis of the Evangelical Alliance, fcap. 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.—Wilhelm Tell, by Schiller, with Interlinear Translation by L. Braunfels and A. C. White, 8vo. 5s. cl.—Wogan's Essay on the Proper Lessons, new edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 10s. cl.—Wood's (Rev. W.) Lectures on the First Seven Chapters of the Book of Daniel, fcap. 8vo. 5s. cl.

WIT AND WISDOM OF THE WEEK.

A few days ago, the attention of several persons was excited at St. Ives by an unusual noise made by a crow which had built her nest and hatched her young in the chimney of an uninhabited house near the Wesleyan Chapel in that town. On examination, it appeared that a cat had discovered the young birds, and was trying to dislodge them; but every time puss put her head into the chimney, the crow pounced upon her hinder parts, and then flew off to the neighbouring chimney. The crow, perceiving that she was unable singly to put the enemy to flight, flew to the tower of the church and brought seven others, who proceeded to assail the cat in the way before described, until she was so severely wounded as to be obliged to retreat, minus pretty much of her fur, and bleeding profusely.—*West Briton*.

A THIRTY WIDOW.—Widow Marshall, residing at Thornhill, near Johnstone, aged ninety-six, has this, as on former seasons, cut her corn and barley, binding and stooking it single-handed. She has also dug the potatoes on her ground, as she was afraid they would be stolen, and she is now engaged thrashing out the barley in her barn.—*Glasgow Herald*.

THE INTERIOR OF SHAKSPEARE'S HOUSE.—All around is dark and heavy. The square shop—if it may be called a shop—is rudely flagged with broad stones, round which in the winter time the water oozes up. The white-washed walls stand about dimly under the shadow of the window-screen which slopes downwards to the street. A massive chimney, with its bold ingle, comes out into the floor; and an open door at the back, reached by a single stone step, leads at once into the kitchen. This is warmer, smaller, and still more shut up in ancient characteristics. The vast fire-place on one side, and the oak stairs on the other, winding up through the wall into the room where Shakspeare was born, are unmistakable evidences of the rude and enduring architecture of a remote age.—*Atlas*.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.—The *Cincinnati Herald* communicates some curious practical logic in the following credible paragraph:—"As a gentleman was passing along Fifth-street, he passed a place where some boys were playing marbles. One of them, in shooting his marble, cleverly put it under the gentleman's foot. The gentleman slipped and stumbled against a lady, also passing, precipitating her, along with himself, upon a large hog, who was examining the gutter geologically for *débris*. The hog, frightened out of his propriety, bolted off, and ran between the legs of another gentleman, who, in falling, drew the string of a kite from the hands of a boy. The kite of course fell, and in falling frightened a span of horses attached to a wagon in an alley near by. The horses ran down the alley. A man who was building a fire in a carpenter's shop, by which they passed, started up to see what was the matter, and in doing so dropped his lighted match among the shavings. A fire was the consequence. The engines assembled, and, in the hurry consequent upon the alarm, a man fell in the track of one of them, and had his arm broken, which ended this budget of accidents for the day.—*Quære*. Is the boy who shot the marble responsible for all the consequent damages?"

A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER.—Flacourt, in his *History of Madagascar*, gives the following sublime prayer, said to be used by the people we call savages:—"O Eternal, have mercy upon me, because I am passing away. O Infinite, because I am weak. O Sovereign of Life, because I am poor. O All-Sufficient, because I am nothing."

RAILWAY IRON BRIDGES.—One of the most important steps taken by the executive is the appointment of the "Iron Commission," from which most important results are expected, as the theory as well as the practical construction of suspended iron arches will be fully investigated, and that, too, before any serious expenditure is incurred in the stupendous works which so materially concern the public safety. The commissioners' attention will also be engaged with two inventions of much importance, one by Captain Thomas Warrington, the inventor of the ventilating apparatus fitted to the *Grouler*, and other vessels, and one by a Mr. Sadler, of a balance bridge, on the principle of the balance, whereby the *vis inertia*, the dead weight of suspended iron for arches, will be considerably lessened.

ETIQUETTE.—It is reported that, previous to presenting the Persian ambassador and his suite to the king, at Compiègne, it was perceived that the illustrious foreigners wore no stockings: they wear large trousers with ample folds, and the robe, or robes, they put over them are so long as to allow the yellow *papouches* to be scarcely visible. But could etiquette allow the illustrious ambassador to be admitted to the presence without stockings? The question was a very grave one. The discussion was long; but after due reflection, etiquette was triumphant, and it was decided that the noble Persians should put on stockings. The civil list, the inexhaustible generosity of which is so well known, sent, as a present, a complete set of red striped cotton stockings, of the *dernier goût*. The polite foreigners, grateful for such courtesy, contrived to get them on, without too much trouble, and the presentation took place. The day of the review arrived; when the court and princes, alighting from their carriages, got on horseback, the valets led round some horses which they held in readiness for the Persians, that the latter might follow the king's staff during the review. They got upon the offered steeds, but one thing was forgotten; the Persians do not ride like the French, and the long stirrups of the French saddles soon caused the ample trousers to wriggle up, the robes floated to the wind, and the meagre tibias of the easterns were soon exposed to view, covered with the elegant red-striped stockings. The courtiers, it is said, laughed heartily,—they were to blame. It is not enough to respect the rules of etiquette; it would be better to respect those of good breeding and of hospitality, and, making use of a little more foresight, not expose foreigners entrusted with an official mission to disagreeable scenes, when intending to do them honour. A short time after, the foreigners got into their carriage, from which they ought not to have been prayed to descend, since it was impossible to procure them the means of riding on horseback according to the custom of their country.

DRUIDICAL TEMPLES IN SCOTLAND.—Several of the Druids' places of worship are still to be seen in the Highlands. Of these temples, at which the ancient Caledonians were wont to worship, the largest we have seen in the north is one in Morayshire, and those at Leys and Torbreck, near Inverness. In our own neighbourhood, above Dochmalug, there is a pretty large one, the stones of which, it is maintained by many of the peasants in the district, are said to have been at one time human beings, which were overtaken with judgment for dancing on the Sabbath-day, and that the position of the stones exactly correspond with the different attitudes of the dancers. Hence the name Clachan Gorach, or foolish stones.—*Rosshire Advertiser*.

Fires in chimneys in France have been prevented by placing three frames of wirework, one foot above each other, near the base of the chimney; no flame will pass through them, while the draught of the chimney will not be impaired, consequently no fire can ever happen in the chimney.

"What had you for dinner on Sunday?" asked a friend, "I dined off a couple of ducks." "Ay, and a good way off, too," was the reply.

EPITAPH UPON A MIMIC.

Here, free from mortal care and strife,
Lies one who, till his parting breath,
So mimick'd all things to the life,
Men thought he only mimicked death;
Through every phase of life he ran
And acted all things—but a man!

The following is the copy of the address of a letter dropped in our post-office last week:—

A Letter of particular

Business Mr. Allan Do not
open it if you do I will
summons you to Court

For my dear Husband

England or Elsewhere

—Guernsey Sun.

To Readers and Correspondents.

We cannot insert, or notice in any way, any communication that is sent to us anonymously; but those who choose to address us in confidence will find their confidence respected. **NEITHER CAN WE UNDERTAKE TO RETURN ANY MANUSCRIPT WHATSOEVER.**

The sonnet on "Autumn" does not quite suit us.

"J. A."—There is no publisher's name in the title-page. It seems to be sold by the author.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

PURE NERVOUS or MENTAL COMPLAINTS cured only by the Rev. Dr. WILLIS MOSELEY.

PURE NERVOUS or MENTAL COMPLAINTS were never cured by any with certainty till Dr. Willis Moseley cured himself, and he is the only person now who can cure Mental Diseases as certainly as bodily are cured by other persons. Dr. W. M. has been in the habit of doing this for 30 years, and out of 15,000 applicants in the last 15 years knows not 20 uncured, who have followed his advice. Depression of spirits, inquietude, sleeplessness, involuntary blushing, dislike to society, unfitsness for study, loss of memory, delusions, vertigo, blood to the head, exhaustion, melancholy, groundless fear, indecision, wretchedness, thoughts of self-destruction, and insanity itself, are most speedily removed by the extra means of cure at his house, and with no less certainty, but not as soon, at their own. Means of cure sent to all parts.

A NEW PAMPHLET, **ON NOTHING**, with Cases, Testimonials, Symptoms, Cures, &c. will be sent to any address; and franked home, if one stamp is enclosed; and also his **TWELVE CHAPTERS**, called by Professor Savage, surgeon, "The best Book on Nervousness," if 16 stamps are sent.

At Home from 11 to 3; 18, Bloomsbury-street, Bedford-square.

THE GREATEST CURES OF ANY MEDICINE IN THE GLOBE.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.

A Cure of a Desperate Scorbatic Eruption of long standing. *Extract of a Letter, dated Wolverhampton, the 10th of February, 1847, confirmed by Mr. Simpson, Stationer.*

Sir,—Having been wonderfully restored from a state of great suffering, illness, and debility, by the use of your Pills and Ointment, I think it right, for the sake of others, to make my case known to you. For the last two years I was afflicted with violent Scorbatic Eruption, which completely covered my chest, and other parts of my body, causing such violent pain, that I can in truth say, that for months I was not able to get sleep for more than a very short time together. I applied here to all the principal medical men, as also to those in Birmingham, without getting the least relief; at last I was recommended, by Mr. Thomas Simpson, Stationer, Market-place, to try your Pills and Ointment, which I did, and I am happy to say that I may consider myself as thoroughly cured: I can now sleep all the night through, and the pains in my back and limbs have entirely left me. (Signed) RICHARD HAVELL.

To Professor Holloway.

Sold by the Proprietor, 244, Strand (near Temple Bar), London; and by all respectable Vendors of Patent Medicines throughout the Civilized World, in Pots and Boxes, at 1s. 1d., 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 11s., 22s., and 33s. each. There is a very considerable saving in taking the larger sizes.

BINYON'S ELASTIC CHEST EXPANDER.

STOOPING OF THE SHOULDERS and **CONTRACTION OF THE CHEST** are entirely prevented, and gently and effectually removed in Youth, and Ladies and Gentlemen, by the occasional use of the **IMPROVED ELASTIC CHEST EXPANDER**, which is light, simple, easily applied, either above or beneath the dress, and worn without any uncomfortable constraint or impediment to exercise. To Young Persons especially it is highly beneficial, immediately producing an evident **IMPROVEMENT IN THE FIGURE**, and tending greatly to prevent the incursion of **PULMONARY DISEASES**; whilst to the Invalid, and those much engaged in sedentary pursuits, such as Reading or Studying, Working, Drawing, or Music, it is found to be invaluable, as it expands the Chest, and affords a great support to the Back. It is made in Silk, and can be forwarded, per post, by Mr. ALFRED BINYON, Sole Manufacturer and Proprietor, No. 40, Tavistock-street, Covent-garden, London; or full particulars, with Prices and Mode of Measurement, &c. on receipt of a postage-stamp.



SASSAFRAS CHOCOLATE.—Dr. DE LA MOTTE'S NUTRITIVE, HEALTH-RESTORING, AROMATIC CHOCOLATE, prepared from the Nuts of the Sassafras Tree, and Sold by the Patentee, 12, Southampton-street, Strand, London.

This Chocolate contains the peculiar virtues of the Sassafras Root, which has been long held in great estimation for its purifying and alterative properties. The aromatic quality (which is very grateful to the stomach) most invalids require for breakfast and evening repast, to promote digestion and to a deficiency of this property in the customary breakfast and supper, may in a great measure be attributed the frequency of cases of indigestion generally termed bilious. It has been found highly beneficial in correcting the state of the digestive organs, &c. from whence arise many diseases, such as eruptions of the skin, gout, rheumatism, and scrofula. In cases of debility of the stomach, and a sluggish state of the liver and intestines, occasioning flatulence, costiveness, &c. and in spasmodic asthma, it is much recommended.

MARRIAGE.—One-half of the World are desolately single, and the other, supposing them married, questionably contented. Diffidence, or a sense of right, determine the former, and miscalculated hopes embitter the latter. The solitary one may shield himself under the plea of caution and worldly prudence, and the indissoluble regret uncompromising hurry; but the truth lies deeper. Physical incapacity, and broken health, are the great hindrances to domestic happiness and social content. The dowry should not be the only settlement. Honour and justice demand that health should form an item in the compact; it alone dignifies the alliance. Blighted hopes or neglect wound more sorely than poverty or misfortune. Reader, if these surmises concern you, procure Dr. CULVERWELL'S little **MEMOIRS** "On Single and Married Life," published in 2 vols. 1s. each (by post, in stamps, 1s. 6d. each). Let no imaginatively refined or prudish feeling deter you, by their titles, nor be hindered by misinterpretation of their supposed contents from obtaining them. They are not intended, certainly, for mere idle curiosity, but for the closet-perusal of those more deeply interested, to whom they are offered as antagonistic to the empirical trash put forth on the above subjects, by unqualified authors, which, alone or together, are a disgrace to the age. Furthermore, two other little publications claim your attention (same price, 1s. each, by post, 1s. 6d.) called "What to Eat, Drink, and Avoid," and "How to be Happy." They are not merely pamphlets, but equal in quantity to a library volume; nor are they the mere ephemeral scribbles of the hour, but the study of the author's life, who owes his present existence, health, and position to the observance of the maxims he would inculcate—to do unto others as he would be done unto—to live after Nature's laws—and to keep always on the "sunny side of the way." The above works may be had of Sherwood, 23, Paternoster-row; Carvalho, 147, Fleet-street; Mann, 39, Cornhill; Nalson, 457, West Strand; or direct (by post or otherwise) from the author (who may be conferred with personally, mornings and evenings), 10, Argyll-place, Regent-street, and all booksellers.

New Publications.

On Wednesday last was published, **THE FOURTH PART OF THE LAW DIGEST**; a General Index to the Reports and Statutes published during the last half-year (continued half-yearly).

The purpose of this elaborate work is to enable the Practitioner to find in a moment the latest Law on any subject in which he may be engaged; with which design it contains, arranged in alphabetical order of subjects, every case reported during the half-year, and the new Statutes, being a complete Index to current Law.

As such it is an indispensable handbook in the County Courts. Price 7s. 6d. sewn, and 8s. boards. Part III. commencing Vol. II. may still be had, price 6s. 6d. and Vol. I. price 10s. bound.

LAW TIMES Office, 29, Essex-street.

THE COUNTY COURTS.

The following, required in the County Courts, are published at the LAW TIMES Office.

ALL the BOOKS and FORMS prescribed by the **RULES of PRACTICE**. Upwards of **SIXTY SPECIAL FORMS** requisite for Clerks, Bailiffs, and Practitioners, prepared by Counsel. A List of these, with their prices, forwarded, post paid, to any applicant.

The Third Edition of the **COUNTY COURTS ACT**, with Introduction, Notes, Index, Forms, &c. By Wm. PATERSON, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 6s. 6d. boards; 8s. 6d. bound; and 9s. 6d. interleaved.

The **PRACTICAL POCKET SCHEDULE OF FEES**, on an original and convenient plan. By CHARLES METCALFE, Esq. Clerk of the Wiscach County Court. Price 5s. bound in circuit binding, for the pocket.

A **TABLE of FEES**, in Totals and in Detail, for suspension in Courts and Offices. By one of the County Clerks. On a large sheet, price 3s.; on past-board, 4s.; on rollers and glazed, 6s.

The **COUNTY COURTS CHRONICLE**, No. IV. for September, price 1s. or stamped, for post, 1s. 1d. containing the Cases reported, and every kind of information relating to the County Courts. To be continued on the first of each succeeding month.

The Third Edition of the **LAW and PRACTICE of INSOLVENCY**, and the County Courts, under the Statute of last Session; with all the Cases decided to the present Time, the Forms, Rules, and Orders, &c. By Wm. PATERSON, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 8s. 6d. boards; 10s. bound; and 11s. interleaved.

The **FORMS** required in the **PRACTICE of INSOLVENCY in the COUNTY COURTS**. In quires.

A **COUNTY COURT CAUSE-BOOK**, for the use of Practitioners, shewing at a glance the state of each cause. In two sizes, at 20s. and 30s.; the latter containing a double number of leaves.

In the press,

The **COUNTY COURTS LAW LIST for 1848**; to contain all the Parishes in each County, with their Distances from the Court Town, and the names of all the Officers, and the Roll of Attorneys practising in the Courts; Tables of Fees, &c. and every other information requisite for the Officers, Practitioners, and Suitors in the County Courts.

N.B.—As this is in urgent demand, and the labour of preparation enormous, it will be published in parts, as it is printed. Immediate orders should be given that the publisher may regulate the impression, and prevent disappointment.

* * All or any of the above Publications may be had either directly by order from the Office, or through any Bookseller in the Country.

COUNTY COURTS CHRONICLE Office, 29, Essex-street, Strand.

THE LAW REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY.

(Provisionally Registered.)

In Shares of 25l.; deposit 2s. 6d. per share.

The Legal Profession has the command of two of the most profitable branches of business, for the conduct of which the combined wealth of an influential Company is requisite—namely, Life Assurance and the Purchase of Reversionary Interests.

The Profession has secured to itself the profits of Assurance by the establishment of Legal Offices, which have been attended with eminent success.

But it is remarkable that, while boasting of many Life Assurance Offices, and one Fire Office, the Legal Profession has not yet sought to avail itself of the still larger source of profit arising from the purchase of Reversions and Policies of Assurance.

Arrangements are made for immediately supplying this deficiency, by the establishment of a LAW REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY, based upon similar principles of advantage to the Profession to those which have secured such singular success to the SOLICITORS' ASSURANCE OFFICE.

The LAW REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY proposes to adopt all the improvements in the conduct of its business which the experience of late years has suggested.

The services of F. G. P. NEISON, Esq. F.S.A. have been secured as Consulting Actuary.

It offers peculiar advantages.

First. To the Shareholders, it proposes that the calls shall not exceed 1l. per share at one time, and at intervals of not less than four months; that interest, after the rate of 4l. per cent. per annum, be paid upon the capital advanced from the time of payment; and that, in addition to this, the profits shall be divided from time to time in the form of bonuses. Reversionary Interests differ from all other investments in this, that there is no risk—the capital is secured—the profits can be calculated with accuracy, and the capital can only be called for as it is wanted to be profitably employed.

Although it is not considered advisable to confine the Shareholders to the Legal Profession, the preference in the allotment will be first given to Solicitors.

The Deposits will be applied towards the expenses of the establishment, in order that, if possible, all the capital subscribed may be invested.

Second. To the Profession it is proposed to offer the advantages of a fair commission on all business they bring to the office.

Third. To the Public it will offer the advantages of fair prices for Reversionary Interests and Policies, with an option of converting Reversionary Interests into present Income, so as to make provision for immediate wants, or otherwise to facilitate family arrangements.

It is proposed that the ultimate capital shall be One Million; but as it can be converted only by degrees, as Reversions, &c. offer, the business will commence as soon as a sufficient fund is subscribed wherewith to enter into negotiations for the purchase of reversions.

The Directors will be chosen from among the Shareholders, and the Trustees by the Directors, before the first call is paid.

Applications for Shares, in the form below, to be addressed to "THE SECRETARY OF THE LAW REVERSIONARY INTEREST SOCIETY," 29, Essex-street, Strand, London.

HERBERT COX, Secretary.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Secretary of the Law Reversionary Interest Society.
Sir,—Be pleased to allot me Shares of 25l. each in this Society, and I undertake to pay the Deposit of 2s. 6d. per Share thereon, and the Calls not exceeding 1l. per Share at one time, nor at less intervals than four months.

Name.....
Address.....
184

Dated

Just published, 16th thousand (in a sealed envelope), with twenty-five coloured engravings, price 2s. 6d. or post paid, to any address, for 3s. 6d. in postage stamps, or post-office order.

A MEDICAL TREATISE, entitled "SELF-PRESERVATION," on the SECRET INFIRMITIES AND DISORDERS OF YOUTH AND MATURITY. Illustrated with Twenty-five Coloured Plates, on the Anatomy and Physiology of the Organs. With practical observations on the Treatment of Nervous Debility, Local and Constitutional Weakness, and other Diseases.

By SAMUEL LAMERT, Consulting Surgeon.

9, Bedford-street, Bedford-square, London; Matriculated Member of the University of Edinburgh, Honorary Member of the London Hospital Medical Society, Licentiate of Apothecaries' Hall, London, &c. &c.

"This is decidedly the most scientific and yet most intelligible work of the kind we have ever yet perused; and the engravings and explanations which accompany it present a moral and highly instructive lesson, by delineating the evil effects of youthful folly and excess. The subject is altogether treated in a very superior manner, and the author being a legally qualified medical man, we recommend his work to public notice with the utmost confidence."—*Railway Bell*.

Published by the Author, and may be had at his residence; also from Messrs. Kent and Richards, 53, Paternoster-row, and Hannay and Co. 63, Oxford-street; or will be sent post-paid, direct from the Author's residence, in a sealed envelope by enclosing 3s. 6d. in postage-stamps.

PRACTICAL REPORTS.

Just published,

COX'S CRIMINAL LAW CASES in BANCO, before all the Judges, at the Central Criminal Court, on the Circuits, and in Ireland. Part VIII. price 5s. Parts I. to VIII. price 5s. each, may still be had.

BITTLESTON and WISE'S NEW PRACTICE CASES in all the Courts of Common Law, and with a selection of those at Nisi Prius, and comprising Cases on Evidence and Stamps. Vol. II. Parts I. and II. price 5s. each, continued regularly at the close of each Term.

BITTLESTON and WISE'S NEW MAGISTRATES' CASES. Part VII. price 5s. continued regularly. Parts I. to VII. may still be had, price 5s. each.

REAL PROPERTY and CONVEYANCING CASES. Part X. price 5s. continued regularly. Parts I. to X. may still be had, price 5s. each.

LAW TIMES Office, 29, Essex-street, Strand, and of all Booksellers.

INSOLVENCY IN THE COUNTY COURTS.

Just published,

THE LAW and PRACTICE of INSOLVENCY in the COUNTY COURTS, and in the COURT for the RELIEF of INSOLVENT DEBTORS, as transferred to those Courts by the 10 and 11 Vict. c. 102, with the Statutes, Rules, Orders, and List of Fees, and the various Cases decided up to the present time, and the Forms adapted to the change of Jurisdiction. By WILLIAM PATERSON, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Being the Third Edition of *HOMES'S Insolvent Act*, one of the series of the *Law Times Editions of Important Statutes*. Price 8s. 6d. boards; 10s. in half-calf; and 11s. interleaved.

LAW TIMES Office, 29, Essex-street, Strand.

PRACTICAL BOOKS AND FORMS.

Now ready,

THE PRACTICE of SALES of REAL PROPERTY, with a copious collection of Precedents. By WILLIAM HUGHES, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Vol. I. price 10s. 6d. boards; 12s. 6d. bound; and 14s. 6d. interleaved. (Vol. II. completing the work, will be published in the course of a month.)

THE PRACTICE of a SUMMARY CONVICTIONS, with the Forms, and a copious Index. By T. W. SAUNDERS, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 5s. 6d. boards; 7s. bound; and 8s. 6d. interleaved.

THE FIFTH EDITION of the PRACTICE of REGISTRATION and of ELECTIONS, comprising the Statutes and Cases decided to this Time, Notes, and a copious Index, and Instructions for Agents and Returning Officers. By EDWARD W. COX, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 8s. boards; 9s. 6d. bound; and 10s. 6d. interleaved.

A TABLE of the ABBREVIATIONS by which the Reports are usually cited, with a Chronological Table of the Reports. On a Sheet, for office use, price 1s.; or on pasteboard, price 1s. 6d.

THE SECOND EDITION of the JOINT STOCK COMPANIES ACTS, with Cases, Notes, Introduction, and copious Index. By WILLIAM PATERSON, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 5s. boards; 6s. 6d. half-calf; and 7s. 6d. interleaved.

THE REAL PROPERTY STATUTES of the SESSION of 1845, with Introduction, Notes, and Index. By C. S. ALLNUTT, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 3s. boards; 4s. 6d. half-calf; 5s. 6d. interleaved.

THE NEW ORDERS in CHANCERY, with Notes and Index. By C. S. ALLNUTT, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 3s. boards.

THE LAW DIGEST; being a complete Index to all the Law decided and enacted, enabling the Practitioner to find in a moment the latest law on any subject. Published half-yearly. Parts I. and II. completing Vol. I. price 12s. or 16s. in half-calf. Part III. commencing Vol. II. price 6s. in wrapper, or 6s. 6d. boards. (Part IV. is in the press.)

PRACTICAL FORMS for OFFICE USE; a complete Series in Common Law, Conveyancing, Miscellaneous, Magistrates, and Parochial Law, of which a detailed list will be forwarded to any applicant.

A SOLICITOR'S PARTNERSHIP ACCOUNT-BOOK, on a new and original plan.

In the press and to be published shortly,

THE CONSOLIDATION ACTS, now completed, Nine in number, and which, as incorporated in all Private Acts, will require continual reference. With Notes of the Cases already decided, and a copious Index. By EDWARD COX, Esq. Barrister-at-Law.

THE SECOND VOLUME of HUGHES'S PRACTICE of SALES of REAL PROPERTY, containing the precedents and completing the work.

THE THIRD EDITION of the LAW and PRACTICE of INSOLVENCY under the Statute of last Session, with the Cases, brought down to the present Time. By WILLIAM PATERSON, Esq. Barrister-at-Law. Price 8s. 6d. boards; 10s. bound; 11s. interleaved.

Part IV. of THE LAW DIGEST, comprising all the Cases Reported and Statutes Enacted between the 1st of January and the 1st of July last.

THE LAW TIMES ALMANAC for 1848, on a large sheet for office use, comprising complete Time Tables in all the Courts, and every other information required for ready reference in the office.

Published at the LAW TIMES Office, 29, Essex-street, Strand, and may be had by order direct, or through any bookseller in the country.

N.B. For a list of the Books and Forms relating to the County Courts see another advertisement, or it will be forwarded by post to any applicant.

METROPOLITAN SEWAGE MANURE COMPANY, Incorporated by 9 and 10 Victoria.

7, WATERLOO PLACE, Pall Mall.

Capital, by Act of Incorporation, 150,000l. in 7,500 shares of 20l. each.

Additional Capital, by amended Act, 20,000l.

Deposit, 1l. per Share.

This Company has been incorporated by the Legislature to convey the contents of the London Sewers into the country in a liquid form, by the same sort of machinery by which water is carried into London, and to distribute it over fields and gardens at a very trifling cost, indefinitely increasing the fertility of the soil.

The plan has been already tried, and its advantages proved, on a farm of 300 acres near Glasgow. At Edinburgh the application of sewage water has raised the value of land from 2s. 6d. an acre to 15l. and 20l. and at Mansfield from 4s. 6d. to 11l. 4s.

The Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Company's Bill "urge the importance of the project," and declare their opinion "that only through the agency of a Company" can the objects contemplated "be combined and applied to the important purposes of CLEANSING OUR TOWNS, PURIFYING OUR RIVERS, and ENRICHING OUR SOIL." Again, the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests pronounces "the principle involved" to be "NATIONAL."

The establishment of this Company may therefore be regarded as the commencement of a system fraught with great national benefits, contemplating not only profit upon invested capital, but increased comfort and improved health to the inhabitants of towns, and inestimable advantages to the agriculture of the United Kingdom.

The operations of the Company will commence at Stanley Bridge, so as to afford an early supply of sewage to the important gardening districts of Fulham and its vicinity, and thus to secure to the Shareholders a speedy return upon their investments, before the whole of the subscribed capital is called for.

The most careful calculation that has been made, exhibits a profit of from 15 to 20 per cent; this calculation was based upon the estimated supply of sewage to 39,000 acres, but since that time farmers, market-gardeners, and landowners cultivating about 68,000 acres of land have, by petition to Parliament, expressed their anxiety to take a supply of Sewage Manure from the Company.

The Directors having obtained their amended Act, giving enlarged powers and facilities, and authorising the issue of additional shares, purpose immediately to carry out the important objects for which this Company was incorporated, and are now ready to receive applications for the unallotted Shares.

The Company being incorporated by Act of Parliament, the liability of the Shareholders is limited to the amount of their shares; and the Act of Incorporation requires that at least three months shall elapse between the calls, and that no call shall exceed 2l. 10s. per share.

The Directors, under the authority of their amended Act, will allow Interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, upon all Deposits and Calls from the day of payment until the Company's Works are in operation; and five per cent. per annum on all sums paid in advance of calls.

A. GREIG, Secretary.

Offices, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, London.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR SHARES.

To the Directors of the Metropolitan Sewage Manure Company.

Gentlemen,—I hereby request you to allot me Shares, of 20l. each, in the above Company, and I undertake to accept the same, or any less number that may be allotted to me, to pay the deposit of 1l. per Share thereon, and to execute the necessary deeds when required.

Name in full.....
Address.....
Profession or Business (if any).....
Reference.....

ROYAL VICTORIA FELT CARPETING,

patronised by her Most Gracious Majesty, and used in the Royal Palaces, and the new House of Lords.—Those who study economy are strongly recommended to use this description of Carpeting, which, from its durability, beauty of pattern, and brilliancy of colouring, is equal to Brussels; and costing less than half the price, is now being generally substituted for it.

The PATENT WOOLLEN CLOTH COMPANY, who are the Sole Manufacturers under the Patent, inform the Trade, that they are constantly introducing new designs, and that those of the present season are now on view, and will be found of the choicest description, and suitable for all styles of rooms.

The Public can be supplied through their Agents in nearly all the Provincial Towns of the Three Kingdoms, and at every respectable Carpet-house in London and its suburbs. The Company also manufacture Table Covers and Window Curtains, embossed and printed in the most recherché designs, Waistcoatings, plain cloths suitable for upholsterers, cloths admirably adapted for coach and railway carriage linings, thick felt for plate glass and marble polishing, and likewise felt for various other purposes.

Manufactories—Elmwood Mills, Leeds, and Borough-road, London. The Trade only supplied at their Wholesale Warehouses, 8, Love-lane, Wood-street, Cheapside.

LONDON:—Printed by HENRY MORRELL COX, of 74, Great Queen Street, in the Parish of St. Giles in the Fields, in the County of Middlesex, Printer, at his Printing Office, 74 & 75, Great Queen Street aforesaid, and published by JOHN CROCKFORD, of 29, Essex Street, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the City of Westminster, Publisher, at the Office of THE CRITIC, 29, Essex Street aforesaid, on Saturday, the 16th day of Oct. 1847.

Price 2d.; Stamped, 3d.